

53rd Anniversary of the Death of Marx

MARX - LEADER AND THINKER

Engel's Speech at the Grave of his Friend

Karl Marx, the great founder of the modern working class movement, died on March 14, 1883. In commemoration of the fifty-third anniversary of his death we reprint the eloquent speech of his brilliant co-worker, Frederick Engels, delivered at Highgate Cemetery, London, on March 17, 1883.

On the Fourteenth of March, at a quarter to three in the afternoon, the greatest living thinker ceased to think. He had been left alone for scarcely two minutes, and when we came back we found him in an armchair, peacefully gone to sleep—but forever.

An immeasurable loss has been sustained both by the militant proletariat of Europe and America, and by historical science, in the death of this man. The gap that has been left by the death of this mighty spirit will soon enough make itself felt.

Just as Darwin discovered the law of evolution in organic nature, so Marx discovered the law of evolution in human history; he discovered the simple fact, hitherto concealed by an overgrowth of ideology, that mankind must first of all eat and drink, have shelter and clothing, before it can pursue politics, science, religion, art, etc.; and that therefore the production of the immediate material means of life and consequently the degree of economic development attained by a given people or during a given epoch, form the foundation upon which the forms of government, the legal conceptions, the art and even the religious ideas of the people concerned have been evolved, and in the light of which these things must therefore be explained, instead of vice versa as had hitherto been the case.

But that is not all. Marx also dis-

covered the special law of motion governing the present-day capitalist method of production and the bourgeois society that this method of production has created. The discovery of surplus value suddenly threw light on the problem in trying to solve which all previous investigators, both bourgeois economists and socialist critics, had been groping in the dark.

Two such discoveries would be enough for one life-time. Happy the man to whom it is granted to make even one such discovery. But in every single field which Marx investigated—and he investigated very many fields, none of them superficially, even in that of mathematics, he made independent discoveries.

This was the man of science. But this was not even half the man. Science was for Marx a historically dynamic, revolutionary force. However great the joy with which he welcomed a new discovery in some theoretical science whose practical application perhaps it was as yet quite impossible to envisage, he experienced a quite other kind of joy when the discovery involved immediate revolutionary changes in industry and in the general course of history. For example, he followed closely the discoveries made in the field of electricity and recently those of Marcel Deprez.

For Marx was before all else a revolutionary. His real mission in life was to contribute in one way or another to the overthrow of capital-

ist society and of the forms of government which it had brought into being, to contribute to the liberation of the present-day proletariat, which he was the first to make conscious of its own position and its needs, of the conditions under which it could win its freedom. Fighting was his element. And he fought with a passion, a tenacity and a success such as few could rival. His work on the first Rheinische Zeitung (1842), the Paris Vorwarts (1844), the Brussels Deutsche Zeitung (1847), the Neue Rheinische Zeitung (1848-9), the New York Tribune (1852-61), and in addition to these a host of militant pamphlets, work in revolutionary clubs in Paris, Brussels and London, and finally, crowning all, the formation of the International Workingmen's Association—this was indeed an achievement of which Marx might well have been proud, even if he had done nothing else.

And consequently Marx was the best hated and most calumniated man of his times. Governments, both absolutist and republican, deported him from their territories. The bourgeoisie, whether conservative or extreme democrat, vied with one another in heaping slanders upon him. All this he brushed aside as though it were cobweb, ignoring them, answering only when necessity compelled him. And he has died—beloved, revered and mourned by millions of revolutionary workers—from the mines of Siberia to California, in all parts of Europe and America—and I make bold to say that though he may have many opponents he has hardly one personal enemy.

His name and work will endure through the ages!

Goodyear Pickets Prepare for Vigilantes

(Continued from Page 1) and withdrawal of financial support to the Goodyear assembly (the company union).

Thus the struggle goes on. For four weeks it has remained the center of attention of the whole labor movement. With a spirit of solidarity and courage seldom equalled in labor struggles, the strikers held their ground and maintained a mass picket line in the face of a vicious injunction. But more important yet is the fact that two momentous issues hinge upon the outcome of this strike.

Two Aspects of Struggle

First and foremost it has raised the question of organization of the mass production industries. This is not a new question. It has appeared before, in plans and schemes and in debates at union gatherings, but it is the first time that it has been given life and vitality on the mass picket line.

A victory for the Goodyear strikers will undoubtedly mean a sweeping organization of the whole rubber industry. It may set a gigantic organization movement on foot in steel, automobile and public utilities.

In the second place the Goodyear strike has raised the question not merely of union organization in general, but of a specific kind of a union—an industrial union. Nor is this a new question. It has been debated intensely. It has already caused serious clashes of views which have shaken the trade union movement to its very foundation. But in this case also, it is the first time that this question has taken on the life and vitality on the mass picket line.

These two aspects of the Akron rubber workers' strike, both of such imposing magnitude, the union officials were slow to recognize. At the outset they tried to treat it simply as an unauthorized affair. They soon found it to be otherwise and they were compelled to step in line with the movement.

The Trusts Mobilize

There never appeared to be any doubt in the minds of the employers regarding the great and decisive importance of this strike. Time and again the Goodyear company, through its feudal chief, F. W. Litchfield, let it be known that under no circumstances would it give any recognition to the union or consider re-employment of the strikers. In this the Goodyear company found support from the feudal barons of other mass production industries. Taylor, the vice-president of the United States Steel Corporation, offered the assistance of the special steel industry strike-breaking agencies. The automobile manufacturers dispatched the assistance of special key "personnel." But the strikers have carried on undaunted.

The picket lines have remained virtually air-tight, covering an eight-mile front. The first crisis appeared on Wednesday, Feb. 25 from which the strikers came through with colors flying. Special deputies and police tried to smash through the picket lines but were stopped cold in their tracks. They met a mighty demonstration of 15,000 workers, the proud work of the progressive forces in this strike. On Saturday, March 7, the attack was renewed. In the hope of catching the pickets unawares, Lieutenant Tom Lynett drove a truck into a picket hut, barely missing four pickets. He next ordered 30 city workers to clear up the wreck while 75 policemen stood by to pre-

vent pickets from stopping their work. But the city employees refused to work.

Defending the Picket Posts

However, the alarm was sounded and within fifteen minutes carloads of strikers, half dressed but well prepared for battle, poured down from Goodyear Heights and began pushing the police down Market Street. 400 General Tire Company workers left work and added reinforcements at the battle front. Lynett tried to drive a truck through the lines but was tossed twenty feet by a couple of husky tire builders and he found himself subsequently in a hospital. Another dozen cops were bounced around as they began to retreat towards downtown and soon the bluecoats were in full flight.

These picket huts have long been a thorn in the sides of the company and the city authorities alike. To the strikers, however, the huts represent their proudest possession. Furnishing a basis for comradeship, the very heart of the strike, the workers have consistently refused to tear them down, even when such proposals were made by the union officials under a plea of avoiding violence. They have effectively repelled every attack.

In view of the threat by the company to reopen the plants, reinforced by the threat of the gathering vigilante forces, company thugs and company hangers-on, the union has issued a radio call to all its members who are ex-service men asking for their mobilization. In the event that trouble should develop, say the union officials, the ex-service men will be placed as captains on the picket lines.

Thus the lines are drawn for a crucial battle. Evidently the union men feel justified by the splendid support they have received in counting upon their own forces to repel further attacks. They know that they can count on the backing of the rubber workers in the other Akron plants and they know that the Central Labor Union is under progressive influence and ready to back them to the limit. A special committee of fifteen has already been elected by the C.L.U. to be ready to take action when necessary.

From the inception the Committee for Industrial Organization, headed by John L. Lewis, lent its direct support to the Goodyear strike. The reason for the special interest shown by this committee is obvious. None of its members can fail to see the two basic issues that are involved—the organization of the mass production industries and the organization of an industrial union. These are now crucial issues and for the future progress of the trade union movement much depends upon how this committee squares itself with the Goodyear strikers.

Up to now the Lewis forces have shown an inclination to compromise more than the situation warrants. The strike is in a strong position. The workers understand the importance of the issues that are involved and they are ready to fight them out to a successful conclusion. The progressives among the strikers are on the alert and they deserve full and complete support.

Gum Miners Reject Terms

(Continued from Page 1)

House then suggested a secret ballot. He was shouted down. "Who is going to count the votes?" the men cried.

The strikers left the auditorium, prepared for renewed assaults by the company. They tightened the picket line, and laid plans for a general strike, if necessary.

Strikebreakers Stirring Trouble. Meanwhile a group of "non-strikers" headed by Lyle Carruthers (dubbed Vile Corrupter, by the strikers) met with C. Nelson Sparks, former mayor of Akron. They formed a "Law and Order League" to "protect the rights of the people of Akron."

"I believe it is my duty and the duty of every law abiding citizen of this community to gang up upon the out-of-town radicals and Communist leaders who have brought to our city the threat of a reign of terror," Sparks said.

The workers are preparing for trouble. Well-founded rumors are circulating that the town is full of strike-breakers and professional thugs. Picket lines are being strengthened, plans are made for a general strike in the rubber industry if any attempt is made to break the picket lines at Goodyear, and a city wide general strike if the militia is called in.

The militancy of the workers is at a high pitch. The mass meeting which voted down the peace plan is only one indication of it.

Shuffle War Cards at London Powers Parley

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more and more definitely on prolonging the period of its own hegemony by helping arm Germany against the Soviet Union.

Italy, Germany and Soviet Union

Italy is playing both sides to its own middle. At London it can afford to watch with silent interest and perhaps even a little amusement. It can choose its allies and make its own terms. Meanwhile it proceeds independently with the construction of its own sphere of influence and domination. This week Austria and Hungary will send their premiers and foreign ministers to Rome to tighten the bonds already established by the Rome protocols of March, 1934. The direction in which this weight will go will be determined by the deal Italy gets. Mussolini can afford now to bide his time. His armies in Ethiopia have at last prevailed over the heroic resistance of the Ethiopians and now occupy commanding positions both on the Eritrean and Somaliland fronts.

Germany banks now, as it banked before it moved across the Rhine, on British support. It cannot nor could it retreat from its position because it is driven forward by insoluble internal contradictions. Germany's economic position has grown steadily worse and the stability of the regime weakened by the accentuated cleavage between it and the German masses. The lid of sheer terror can stifle resistance to economic strangulation for just so long and no longer. It is the Fascist states, driven by the same ineradicable compulsions which brought them into being in the first place, which are forced to take the audacious course and strike out for changes in an insupportable status quo. Thus Italy marched into Ethiopia and Germany today stakes its all on winning Europe to the idea of war against the Soviet Union. For if it fails to accomplish this and the conflagration illumines once more the Franco-German frontier, its stakes will be played out.

And the Soviet Union? The forcing of issues in Europe brings nakedly to the surface the miserable fruits of the nationalist, socialism-in-one-country course of the Stalinist bureaucracy which has today placed the Workers' State in mortal danger of its very existence. "Practical" and "realistic" policies, unmasked in the glare of the crisis, reveal yet more clearly that the fate of the Soviet Union has been linked to the chariot of French imperialism. What can Moscow's course now add up to? It can only strenuously support the anti-German orientation of France and Polish off its backball to keep Germany from coming back into the League of Nations!

And the Working Class?

And the voice of the European proletariat? It is stifled in the vise of the sacred union forged by the Second and Third Internationals. Sarraut of France, Benes of Czechoslovakia, Van Zeeland of Belgium, Titulescu of Rumania and similars in their respective general staffs—these are the forces upon which the Stalinist bureaucracy has hung its own fate and to them it has subordinated as far as it could the proletariat in every country across the face of the world. The "peace policy" of the Stalinist bureaucracy has led to a crisis in which the alternatives are bloody imperialism war with the working class chained to the imperialist chariots and the Soviet Union a pawn in the game—or war against the Soviet Union with the active aid or at least the benign tolerance of yesterday's allies.

The threat to the Soviet Union has not only heightened on its western frontier. Optimistic ignoramus who believed that the military coup in Tokyo three weeks ago ended in a triumph for the "moderates" are now compelled to see that the Hirota regime, dedicated to the more "positive" policies demanded by the army, is reaching out to make terms with Britain and the United States in the Pacific for a free hand against the U.S.S.R. Just as Germany is doing in the West.

These processes will go on hand in hand. Time is foreshortening. The pace toward war quickens, war in which the real defense of the Soviet Union by the revolutionists in capitalist countries will have to be carried on not within the straitjacket of the union sacree (civil peace) but in unremitting, implacable struggle against capitalism, against the war-makers.

Will Leninism be completely obscured in the bog of opportunism parading in a red dress?

"Defense of class collaboration;

renunciation of the idea of a Socialist revolution, and of all revolutionary methods of struggle; adaptation to bourgeois nationalism; forgetfulness of the fact that the frontiers of nationality and fatherland are changing in history; making a fetish of bourgeois legalism; abolition of the class point of view and the class struggle out of fear of repelling the broad masses of the population (read: petty bourgeoisie)—these are undoubtedly the ideological foundations of opportunism. It is on this soil that the present chauvinist-patriotic mood of the majority of the leaders of the Second International has grown." (Lenin, Vol. XVIII, p. 84)

And it is on this soil that the same mood has grown in the ranks of what was once Lenin's International. To say, as the Seventh Congress said, that "the war is conducted for the defence of the freedom and the existence of the nations" is, in Lenin's view, "a total betrayal of all Socialist convictions."

"A propaganda of peace at the present time, if not accompanied by a call to revolutionary mass actions, is only capable of spreading illusions, of demoralising the proletariat by imbuing it with confidence in the humanitarianism of the bourgeoisie, and of making it a plaything in the hands of the secret diplomacy." Lessons Which Must Be Learned

Was ever a lesson more timely? Or more proven? Can we now, on the brink of war, follow any other course than the one Lenin took in 1915, to unite Marxists all over the world—"to unite these Marxist elements, however small their number may be at the beginning, to revive in their name the words of real Socialism now forgotten, to call the workers of all countries to relinquish chauvinism and raise the old banner of Marxism. . . Only through a call to revolutionary struggle will the 'peace' demand gain proletarian content. . . The only real program of action, then, would be the Marxian program which brings the masses a complete and clear understanding of what has happened, which explains what imperialism is and how to fight against it; which declares openly that opportunism has brought about the collapse of the Second International; which appeals to the workers to build up a Marxian International openly without and against the opportunists." (Ibid. p.249)

These are the lessons for us today while the imperialists brew their new cauldron of war. The Third International has followed the historic course of the Second—and Marxian elements around the world, "however small their number may be at the beginning," must raise the banner of Marxism, of the Fourth International.

Service Strike Compromise

(Continued from Page 1)

stant Secretary of Agriculture in the federal government.

As we go to press, hundreds of workers, some reports say thousands, are virtually locked out with strike-breakers continuing at work. Picketing has been resumed in some cases, and great confusion exists.

The Realty Board apparently is pushing the advantage which the settlement has given them, in an attempt to break the union completely. Unless the union quickly and militantly takes up every case of discrimination under the general slogan of All or None return in each building, there is grave danger that the union will be wiped out, and unionism given a severe set-back, not only in the building service line, but throughout the city.

The strikers fought militantly, responding to every call of their leadership. Organizations of tenants were increasingly rallying to their support. In numerous buildings, where union shops were located, morale, financial and picket support was given generously. Slowly, but surely, the trade unions of the city with the progressive locals well in the lead, were rallying to the support of the strike. Despite the difficulties in a strike of this kind the situation was in good shape at the time of the "settlement."

Azana Starts Repression

ganizations. One further step in the consolidation of his government, and then Azana will be free to turn against his allies.

With the aid of the Right-Wing Socialists, the Azana-Barrios group, despite its admittedly weak place in the actual population, was given more than a majority of the left-bloc seats in the Cortes, thereby making it possible for Azana-Barrios to join with the center and right bourgeois deputies and have a clear majority in the Cortes. It is significant that all the right and center deputies, with the exception of seven die-hards, voted for the "Left" candidate for Speaker of the Cortes, Barrios. It is already settled that Zamora will resign and that, as the Constitution provides, Barrios as Speaker will ascend to the presidency. Once this is consummated, Azana-Barrios will break with their proletarian allies on their own terms and at their own convenience.

Stalinists in Menshevik Role

The Stalinist organ, "Mundo Obrero," is vying with "El Socialista" which is being edited by the right-wing Socialists, in laying down an utterly false and Menshevik perspective. Lenin's famous formula of 1917—"This is a bourgeois revolution and therefore let us mercilessly expose the bourgeois and arm the proletariat" is long forgotten; and on the agrarian question the Stalinists take a completely Menshevik position, repeatedly declaring that the bloc with the bourgeoisie must be maintained in order to carry out the expropriation of the land! The Bolshevik analysis, that in the epoch of imperialism the bourgeoisie is incapable of carrying through the tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution—this is thrown overboard by the Stalinists, whose perspective on this question differs not a hair from that of the right-wing Socialists.

"Claridad," organ of Caballero and the left Socialists, is far to the left of the Stalinists, but confines itself to abstract assertions of the necessity of the dictatorship of the proletariat as the instrument of land-distribution and socialization. It makes no criticism of Azana, and goes so far, in calling upon the peasants to seize the land, as to assure them that Azana will back them up.

Azana Shows His Hand

Azana, on the other hand, is beginning to show his hand. On the very day that Barrios was elected Speaker, their cabinet prolonged for a month the state of alarm, modified form of martial law, which had been declared by the previous reactionary cabinet. Under the state of alarm the government has extraordinary powers to prohibit and suppress workers' demonstrations and meetings. The Associated Press reports that Azana served notice on Caballero to call off further demonstrations.

Soil Profits 'Conserved'

(Continued from Page 1) five per cent will be "prorated" between the landlord and the tenant—who, always owes the landlord money. Ten percent will go to the owner of the equipment and livestock—our old friend, the landlord again. Thirty-five per cent will be "prorated" as the crop is divided; the landlord will get the crop and the tenant will get down the road.

At this particular stage, the Democratic party needs the continued support of the landed entrepreneur on a national, as well as a sectional scale. The AAA insured the continuance of this alliance until it was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The "soil conservation" proposal is simply a renewal of the subsidy bribe under another name.

GOLD AND DUST

The Stalinists love of the "remnants of bourgeois democracy" does not stretch far enough to cover democracy in a union which they control. This is shown by a leaflet issued by the Furriers Progressive League. In addition to other criticisms of the union, the leaflet contains a report of this gem of purest democracy, right from the democratic crown of the self-styled "most popular man in the labor movement," Ben Gold, Manager of the Joint Council. The leaflet states:

"An incident that happened at the last meeting of the Joint Council will clearly illustrate the wonderful democracy that we have in our union. A member of the minority interrupted 'His Majesty,' Manager Gold. The Manager became hysterical and abused him in the worst fashion. He then gave a command to the chairman that any member of the Council who will dare to interrupt the manager shall be suspended from the Council. This motion was passed."

READERS, ATTENTION!

Due to circumstances beyond our control we were compelled to skip the issue of March 7. A mishap with our machinery caused the interruption which we shall, however, attempt to make good by special efforts to bring to our readers material that is up to the highest standard of a revolutionary journal. We expect that our subscribers will cooperate and promptly renew their subscription when expired. To our bundle agents we can only say that prompt attention to payments will help to obviate further interruptions.

Soil Profits 'Conserved'

(Continued from Page 1)

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