

Workers
Of the World Unite!

SOCIALIST APPEAL

For the
Fourth International!

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Vol. II. - No. 5. 401

Saturday, January 29, 1938

5 Cents per Copy

Boss Court Holds Beal On Old Score

GASTONIA STRIKE LEADER MENACED

Fight On Against Extradition To N. Carolina

Fred Beal, leader of the famous Gastonia, North Carolina, textile strike, in 1929, has been arrested by the authorities in his home town, Lawrence, Mass. He is being held for extradition to North Carolina where he is still under a 20-year prison sentence under a frame-up conviction of conspiracy to slay Gastonia's police chief Aderholt.

The hearings on the extradition before the Governor of Massachusetts were scheduled to be held in the middle of this week, too late to be reported in the current issue of the Socialist Appeal.

Fred Beal is being defended by the Boston attorney George Roemer. The Boston Local of the Socialist Workers Party is vigorously behind Beal in this case, and the National Office of the Party in New York is preparing to cooperate in the launching of a national movement to prevent Beal from being extradited to the prison hell of anti-labor North Carolina and to fight for his earliest possible release if the extradition fight should be lost in Massachusetts.

Became Union Leader

A New England textile worker from early youth, Beal became one of the most effective union organizers in that industry, participating in and later leading a number of dramatic labor struggles. A member of the Communist Party for several years, he went almost single-handed into the South and organized the sensational Gastonia strike in 1929.

The strike held firm for a long period of time under the most savage attacks of the mill-owners, their police officials and thugs, until the Union Hall was raided by a lynch mob. In the course of the firing, Police Chief Aderholt was shot. Beal and six other union officials were indicted for conspiracy to murder and railroaded to prison in an atmosphere of typical lynch-justice.

Together with the other defendants, Beal went to Russia in 1930, where his experiences under the rule of the bureaucracy, narrated in his recent autobiography, "Proletarian Journey," made him a confirmed opponent of the Stalin regime. Because he refused to be silent about the crimes of the ruling clique, he was left completely in the lurch by his former Stalinist leaders in Russia and in the United States, and, after his return to this country, left to fight the Gastonia frame-up single-handedly.

Frame-Up Is Frame-Up

The significance of that frame-up and of Beal's great work of labor organization in the South has not changed by a single jot. The fact that he is now threatened with imprisonment by the Southern Bourbons for labor activity, is not altered in the least by the fact that he is a sharp critic of the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union.

In spite of the fact that he is now in crucial danger of losing his liberty for pro-labor activity, the International Labor Defense, Stalinist auxiliary, has not lifted a finger in his behalf. The Daily Worker, which a few years ago denounced the frame-up for what it was and is, now calls upon the workers to let the Southern reactionaries do to Beal what they want without interference from the labor movement. At a time when a worker is being hauled through the prison gates, the Communist Party, instead of aligning itself with him against capitalist justice as is its elementary duty, is taking revenge on Beal for his opposition to its policies and facilitating his incarceration in a southern dungeon.

The Beal case is a bristling challenge to the entire labor movement. It is a labor case from beginning to end. It is also

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FRED BEAL

California SWOC Members Revolt Against Leaders

REGISTER PROTEST IN RUMP MEETING

Say Lewis Appointees Are Bureaucrats

LOS ANGELES.—The first substantial revolt in the Los Angeles area against the dictatorial policies of the Lewis-appointed bureaucracy in the S. W. O. C. flared into action Sunday, January 16, when delegates demanding democratic procedure held a rump session after the adjournment of the regular district policy meeting of the S. W. O. C. lodges. The "rump" meeting was not the result of planned action but merely the spontaneous expression of the militant rank-and-file protest against the bureaucratic practices of Dalrymple, S. W. O. C. Regional Director of California.

The meeting failed to take concrete action or make definite plans for the future. However, as one delegate expressed it, "The ball has started rolling; the first step in the direction of building a rank-and-file demo-

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Roosevelt In Huddle With Businessmen

ACTS TO PUT BRAKE ON ALARMING SLUMP

Prevailing Wage Cut From Amendment Of Housing Act

Beneath the surface of the White House Conference of big shots, the campaign against labor outlined in these columns took more specific form during the past week. All of the industrialists, with the very best will in the world, unite in explaining that they simply cannot lower prices and increase production while their "costs"—that is, the wages they pay—are so high and the unions so "irresponsible."

The President and Congress are listening carefully. With very evident approval from the White House, the "prevailing wage amendment" was struck from the Housing Act. This amendment provided that on all housing enterprises undertaken, supported, or financed by the Government wages should be paid at least equal to the highest wages prevailing for the given trade in the given locality. The crucial importance of this provision, from the point of view of labor, is sufficiently obvious. Its elimination from the Housing Act not merely opens the road to sub-standard wages on Government financed enterprises, but, even more important, works as a wedge in lowering wages in the building trades generally.

Aids Housing Bosses

In point of fact, this action very clearly shows the real meaning of "housing" under capitalism. Far from being a means to provide cheap and adequate living facilities for the masses, and useful and well-paying jobs in construction, the whole governmental housing program, in so far as it may be realized at all, is designed merely to aid the building material, construction, and real estate companies in reviving their profits. This will become

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New Jersey Steel Workers Win Strike In Heart Of The Notorious Anti-Labor Mayor Hague's Own Hudson County

MILITANT TACTICS BRING CRUCIBLE STEEL TO ACCEPT WORKERS TERMS IN 36 HOURS

Bosses Fail to Befog Issues By Attack On E. H. Kaempf

HARRISON, N. J. — At Crucible Steel Co., 2,000 members of SWOC lodge No. 1289 won a smashing 36-hour victory last week. The strike victory is particularly impressive in view of the fact that Harrison is a Hudson County town controlled by Mayor Hague's stooges. During a three-months' period preceding the strike, Crucible, known as the toughest steel outfit in the country, had repeatedly violated the seniority rights guaranteed the workers by the union contract. In addition to settling these long-standing grievances the workers struck for other progressive concessions which would fortify the security of the union in the plant.

At 8:15 a. m., January 17th, Union leaders stood by the gate, while flying squadrons pulled switches all over the plant, completely stopping all production, as the plant manager admitted. Immediately the management declared the strike to be in violation of the contract. The boss press of Newark followed by spreading statements that the strike was opposed by two-thirds of the workers, and that the rank-and-file was opposed to the "irresponsible" leadership of Edwin H. Kaempf, Northern New Jersey director of SWOC.

Great Solidarity Shown

As the midnight shift came on the workers exposed the lie of the fink press. The newly-arriving workers were asked to give their lunchboxes to the strikers inside the gate and then go home until morning. The response was 100 per cent. With this demonstration of solidarity on the part of the workers, the plant management retreated from its previous intransigency. With a favorable settlement in sight, the workers evacuated the plant after a promise by the local police chief that no strikebreakers

would be allowed in. The workers showed their militancy and lack of reliance on the capitalist-controlled police by maintaining a picket-line of 300 at the gate, prepared at the first sign of a doublecross to reoccupy the plant.

The strike was settled with all but one demand granted. Grievance cases that had been kicked around for months were settled in a few minutes. Plant-wide seniority replaced department seniority. Union shop stewards and committee-men were given highest seniority rights in the plant, regardless of their term of service. Long standing unsanitary conditions were remedied.

600 Give Support

As proof of the class consciousness of the organized steel workers in this area, Lodge 1339, consisting of 600 workers in the Jersey City Crucible plant, voted to strike in support of their Harrison brothers if called upon. Another noteworthy feature of the strike was the completely democratic manner in which it was conducted, the rank and file voting to ratify the agreement before there was any return to work, and in addition electing all committees in charge of the strike. After the settlement, when the victorious workers wanted to lift Kaempf to their shoulders, he refused, pointing out that every worker in the plant was as responsible as he for the victory. At a meeting on January 23, some 1,600 workers of the Altha plant gave an overwhelming vote of confidence to Kaempf.

The strike victory has lifted the morale of the Crucible workers amazingly. The first meeting after the strike was so large that an additional hall had to be rented to hold all the workers. With the past year showing Crucible's profits reaching new highs, and with the company getting fat navy contracts at the present time, the Crucible workers are ready to meet the expiration of their contract on Feb. 28, determined to win better working conditions.

Rivera Resigns From Modern Monthly

January 18, 1938.
To the Editor of the Modern Monthly:

Up until now the undersigned was listed as the art editor of the "Modern Monthly." It is true that this actually was not expressed in any way, being no more than a gesture of solidarity. I consider it impossible, however, further to give the impression of solidarity with your publication. For all workers' organizations and even for individual progressive figures the deciding criterion at the present time is their attitude toward Stalinism and the G. P. U., to the ruling Moscow clique.

The question here is not one of a struggle of ideas between two tendencies, as the hypocrites of the "Workers Age" try to describe it, but of a struggle among all trends in the working class for self-preservation, against demoralization, bribery, poison, slander, frame-ups and shootings in the back.

Mr. Carleton Beals did everything he could to hinder the investigation of the crimes of the Stalinist clique. In accomplishing this, Beals himself did not stop at lies, slander and low intrigue. It was the elementary duty of the "Modern Monthly" to brand its own collaborator as he deserved and to drive him from its ranks. But the owner of the "Modern Monthly," Mr. V. F. Calverton, has set himself against the execution of this elementary duty. This shows that the "Modern Monthly" places its regard for clannishness above the elementary demands of political hygiene. There is nothing left for me to do other than to ask you to remove my name from the list of your editors and collaborators.

DIEGO RIVERA.

TELEPHONES

The telephone number of Local New York is

GRamercy 5-9142

The telephone number of the National Office is

ALgonquin 4-8547

Profound Depths of Economic Crisis Revealed In Statistics On New Unemployment Wave

BUT CP ACCEPTS ROOSEVELT SMOKESCREEN AND CHARGES WALL STREET SABOTAGE

Falling Off In Employment In U. S. Clearly Shows There Has Never Been Any Real Recovery in Country

By Dave Cowles

There has been much talk about the current economic decline being a temporary recession. If this is indeed a recession, it is deeper than any depression America has had during the present generation, excepting only the depression of 1929-1933. It is also the best evidence of the bankruptcy and decline of American capitalism.

Judge Wham Fines Illinois Miners For Alleged Conspiracy

SAYS 3-YEAR STRIKE DAMAGED BUSINESS

Precedent A Menace To Labor If Upheld

By Albert Gates

Organized labor was dealt a severe blow in the far-reaching decision handed down by Federal Judge Fred L. Wham, sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois, when on January 13th he ordered the Progressive Miners union to pay \$117,000 in damages to the United Electric Coal Company in a suit arising out of a long and bitter strike at the company's Red Ray mine near Freeburg, Illinois.

The United Electric Company instituted suit against the PMA for \$400,000 claimed as losses to the company as a result of the strike. The strike, beginning on April 1, 1933, lasted for three years. Those assessed for damages as a result of this decision, were seven locals of the PMA and 66 individual members. In handing down his decision Judge Wham found that the company was entitled to actual damages only. The figure was arrived at in the following manner: \$70,000 for net profits that would have been made had the mine operated; \$22,000 overhead losses, and \$25,000 shutdown expenses.

Words of Camouflage

Judge Wham made sure to announce that his finding was made not because there was a strike but because there was a conspiracy on the part of the union and the workers to harm the effective operation of the company's business. The Judge declared that his decision in no way questioned the right of workers to engage in strike action provided that strike action is legal. That was the least he could have said in the light of existing laws upholding the right to strike.

The right to strike is a right acquired by the workers in struggle. Legislation permitting the right to strike and picket is the result of the continuous pressure of the workers in the strike waves of recent years and to the legal recognition of an existing fact.

From coast to coast the workers have struck on the job in order to obtain recognition of their union organizations and an improvement of their working and living conditions. By their mass action, they have rendered anti-strike legislation ineffective and influenced the new trend in labor law developed in the reformist period of the Roosevelt administration.

To Cripple Strikes

The boss class, compelled to accept reformist labor legislation, now seeks to cripple the strike movements of the workers through other means, and one of the means utilized is to sue a union and its members for damages arising out of "illegal" strikes and violence occurring in strikes as a result of the "thug and fink" policy of the financial

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The severity of the current decline can best be seen by comparing it with that of 1929. Within the past four months, the New York Times index of business activity has fallen twenty-seven points. This drop is far worse than the one that followed the stock market crash of 1929, when it took five months for business activity to drop only one-third as far. The ten-point drop of 1929 was followed by a slight upward movement which broke the steepness of decline. The present fall is straight down, without the slightest sign of any pause. The five months' drop that heralded the worst depression in history was less than ten percent. The present four months' drop is almost twenty-four percent. If the drop continues as long as that of 1919, it will catapult into a depression that will make the last one seem a little "recession" by comparison. For already the disastrous effects on workers are seen in news of suicides, news of increased unemployment, news of business and government attacks on the organizations and living standards of the workers.

Capitalist Alibis

The reaction of the ruling class has been to let loose a flood of propaganda that hides the whole truth of capitalist decline. The anti-New Deal capitalists blame Roosevelt and the New Deal for the depression. In doing this they spread the illusion among workers and the middle class that "unhampered" capitalism can overcome depression and restore prosperity. They hide the truth that it was the "unhampered" capitalism of Hoover that crashed into the worst depression in American history.

The pro-New Deal capitalists blame the opponents of the New Deal for the depression. The New York Times of Dec. 22, 1937 reports that "the President emphasized his belief that the business recession was... largely the result of a psychology which he said was not only being inculcated but was being fostered by the minority of business men and a large percentage of newspapers." This would jolt workers into believing that capitalism, "controlled" by the New Deal, had brought prosperity and could continue to do so; that the cause of the current depression and widespread suffering is not capitalism but some "uncontrolled" capitalists. But, the truth is that the current depression is so deep despite the tremendous aid given to industry by the New Deal in the form of loans, of price aids to increase profits, and of outright gifts.

Stalinist Fairy Tales

The Communist Party apes Roosevelt, only more bluntly, in the Weekly Newsletter of the Workers' Alliance, November 17, 1937: "Wall Street is trying to create a crash to prove that progressive government and the New Deal are not successful." This would spread the illusion among the most suppressed of all workers that the New Deal is successful in preventing depression, that the present government is progressive. This would make men in a much-hated "Wall Street" the scape-goats for depression. The theory fits in with Roosevelt's plan to compel his capitalist opponents to submit to the "controls" of the New Deal.

The action also fits in. The Workers' Alliance is planning a

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Soviet Council Adjourns After Giving Stalin O K Order To End The Party Purge Presages New Terror

Following the fake Stalin elections, the equally fraudulent "Supreme Council" convened in its first session in Moscow to go through a routine, rigorously outlined in advance, with 100 per cent unanimity.

Nothing "sensational" developed out of this first session. In other words, Stalin, as is his custom, contented himself on this occasion merely with having the Supreme Council approve everything that had been done thus far.

Above all, Stalin needed a legalization of the blood purge. The Supreme Council, as the newest and most important public facade and rubber stamp, set its seal of legality upon it, by unanimous approval of the revamped Council of People's Commissars. This oft-purged body as reconstituted today has on it only seven men who were commissars at the last "election" two years ago; the remaining 23 have been removed, i.e., arrested or executed.

Five "Securely" Seated

Of the seven remaining "old" Bolsheviks, five are more or less securely seated: Molotov, Chubar, Voroshilov, Kaganovich and Mikoyan, while the other two, Litvinov and Pakhomov (Commissar for Water Transport) had warnings issued to them. Pakhomov, severely criticized during the session, was given until the opening of the next open season to get his commissariat in "functioning order", being warned not to forget for a single day the criticisms made of his department. As for Lit-

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UAWA Leaders Bow Down to GM GIVE UP GROUND WON BY WORKERS

Proffer To Auto Makers Non-Strike Contract

DETROIT.—Under the leadership of Martin Frankenstein-Reuther, the big retreat of the United Automobile Workers from the battles and victories of January 1937 has begun. The gains and the positions conquered are to be abandoned—without a fight.

The General Executive Board of the UAWA, now in session in Detroit, is submitting the following iron-clad anti-strike guarantee to the General Motors Corporation: "The union agrees that it is the responsibility of the management to maintain discipline and efficiency in the shops; and the right of the employer to hire, discipline and discharge employees for cause is expressly recognized, subject to the right of appeal through grievance procedure."

A Year Ago

"The Communist party today called a halt to mass expulsions of its members, many of whom were said to have been dropped for trivial reasons. Party officials delivered caustic reprimands to local committees, and began immediate reinstatement of those whom they described as the victims of unjust expulsions."

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Moscow In Difficulty With Robinson Case State Dept. Refused Right To See Arrested Woman

By Junius Bulletin!

As we go to press, Washington announces a new demand to see Mrs. Rubens, sent to Moscow despite pressure of the C. P. - T. - R. bloc favoring connivance with Stalin. Hull, however, continues to keep all details secret.

The closeness of the jam the Stalin regime finds itself in because of the Robinson-Rubens frame-up fizzle, was startlingly illuminated early this week when a Moscow cable cited Americans in that city as believing that "the failure of the Soviet government to permit American Consular officials here, despite the recognition agreement, to see Mrs. Ruth Marie Rubens, now under arrest in a Soviet prison, will continue indefinitely."

At the same time, the Appeal learns from Washington that the refusal of permission, coming on the heels of the G. P. U.'s six-week-long failure to admit they had Mrs. Rubens in their clutches, has caused annoyance in the State Department.

The insistence of the G. P. U. on keeping Mrs. Rubens to themselves until they have finished "questioning" her—while creative process may take several months—is presumably due to the difficulties, both subjective and objective, in getting her to play the role of penitent "Japanese - Trotskyite - Bukharinite - spy" which the G. P. U. has written for her.

The fact remains that Stalin's adventurous frame-up course has led to a situation that strains

Stalinist Jitters Mount

relations between Washington and Moscow, to establish which Stalin long ago pledged himself to demobilize the American Marx- ist movement.

And while the Daily Worker, like the genial Dictator himself, continues mum as a clam on the whole subject of the Rubens case, Stalinists in New York are working to dispel interest in the case.

A growing feeling among non-Stalinist radicals, laborites and liberals that the Rubens case is a crucially rotten expression of Stalinist degenerate methods has frightened local Stalinists into the jitters. They fear that the Appeal's series of startling disclosures of their role in the Rubens passport fraud will shortly be followed by even more sensational exposes of the criminal anti-working class activities of the G. P. U. here and abroad.

Other new developments in this latest of Stalin's frame-up attempts are as follows:

New Developments

1. Fred Beal, Gastonia and Moscow class-war refugee now held by the Massachusetts police for extradition to North Carolina where he would face a 20-year prison term resulting from an anti-labor murder frame-up, on his arrest told newspaper men that he believed the G. P. U. was simultaneously trying to involve him in the Rubens frame-up.

Beal, of course, has been defended by Trotskyites against the vicious slanders spread against him by the Stalinist mud-

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