Plenty

"Then there's the Gem of the Caribbean, Jamaica . . . lovely mountains, deep canyons, broad fertile plantations . . . Jamaica, now a peaceful British colony, once was the stronghold of those swashbuckling pirates who roamed the Spanish Main." (Travel section of the August Forum.)

In May and June a strike of almost general proportions in Kingston, Jamaica, spread to rural districts, involving thousands of laborers on the "broad fertile plantations." British soldiers, Island militia, volunteers and police brutally suppressed the strikes, killing twelve workers, injuring hundreds, and arresting countless others. On August 1, hundredth anniversary of freeing the slaves, the authorities were trembling before the threat of a general insurrection, with hundreds of special police and militla stationed at strategic points and the British cruiser Orion walting in port with 600 men

An orchid for every woman and a gardenia for every man who visits Puerto Rico (the flowers to be grown by prisoners in the penitentiary gardens) was the plan announced by Governo Winship last winter.

It is to be hoped the origin of the flowers would not remind the tourists of Puerto Rico's political prisoners. The fragrance of gardenias, however, might keep the tourist's nostrils from being assailed by the stench of the Island slumssome of the worst in the world. Eyes feasting on orchids might overlook the starving natives, infested with hookworm for lack of shoes. The average wage for men employed in the Island's largest industry, sugar (the profits go to absentee owners in U.S.), was \$3.65 a week for 1936-37. Food costs more than in New York City. The grateful natives have just showered their flower-loving governor not with blossoms, but bul-

Paul V. McNutt, U. S. High Commissioner in the Philippines, is to have a summer palace in the mountains in addition to the one now being built in Manila.

Congress appropriated \$750,000 for the palaces. The Filippinos must not be left in doubt, despite illusions of independence, as to whose is the power and the glory.

Cuba has expressed her willing ness to do her bit towards solving the refugee problem. A State Department communique announced she was ready to receive capitalists, and favored "the eventual admittance of capitalists who might contribute to the improvement of our national economy." The refugee-making countries refuse to allow emigrants to take out any capital.

Czechoslovakia displays a similarly touching generosity. A Prague dispatch states, "The authorities recently have shown sympathy for the position of these fugitives from Nazl Austria and have considered establishing a concentration camp for them at Szatoboricz in Mo-

4,800 European refugees who partial list of articles for the Sep- so long as the contrary has not have arrived on tourist passports tember number. good for six months, but have remained. The means of support of each refugee will be investigated, and they will be placed under police supervision until the authorities decide what to do with them.

On his seventy-fifth birthday, Henry Ford received the Grand Cross of the German Eagle, awarded by Hitler for the first time in this country. It was officially given for Mr. Ford's services in making "automobiles available to the masses." But Hitler has no reason to be displeased with Mr. Ford either for his anti-Jewish activities or his treatment of

Reminder on the Anniversary of the World War: "A manufacturer of steel for shells, who had been allotted troops to work in his factory, remarks to me: 'At last I shall discover what is the working man's maximum output. For if they don't work I shall send them back to the trenches'." Diary of Michel Corday, "The Paris Front," 1914-1918.

"November 14, 1917. Steeg strongly advises me against Clemenceau (to form a cabinet). He believes it necessary to associate the socialists with governmental action and the repressions which, he says, are indispensable. Other- \$2.00 per year. Address: wise they will form an opposition that would very quickly become pacifist." Poincare's Memoirs. Vol. IX.

Was Leon Sedoff Murdered? World At A Glance

Trotsky Presses Question In Letter to French Court; Finds Inquiry Avoids Essential Facts

On February 16th, Leon Sedoff, son of Leon Trotsky, died in a Paris hospital following an abdominal operation. The suspicious circumstances attending his death, combined with persistent persecution by Stalin's agents in France, pointed an accusing finger at the G.P.U. Friends of Leon Sedoff requested an investigation by the public authorities into the causes of Sedoff's death. We print below a letter addresed by Leon Trotsky to the court concerning documents submitted to it by police and medical authorities.-Ed.

To M. Penegal, Examining details, I take the liberty of cal-Magistrate of the Inferior Court ling your attention to the verb--Department of the Seine. Monsieur le Juge, Sir:

This morning I received from Soviet Commissariat of Justice. my attorneys, Maitres Rosenthal and Rous, materials relating to the preliminary investigation and the medical findings on the death of my son, Leon Sedoff. In so important and tragic a case I deem it my right to speak with complete frankness, without any dipomatic subterfuges. The transmitted documents have astonished me by their reticences. The police investigation, as well as the medical experts' report, is obviously pursuing the line of least resistance. In this way the truth cannot be revealed. Messrs, medical experts arrive

at the conclusion that Sedoff's death may be explained by natural causes. This conclusion, in the given circumstances, is almost void of meaning. Any sickness may under certain conditions lead to death. On the other hand, there is no sickness or almost none that must necessarily result in death exactly at a given moment. The judicial investigation is not faced with a theoretical question of whether a given sickness could of itself have resulted in death but rather with a practical question of whether somebody had deliberately aggravated the sickness in order to do away with Sedoff as quickly as possible. During the Bukharin - Rykov

that one of the methods of the G.P.U. is to assist a disease in expediting death. The former head of the G.P.U., Menzhinsky, and and were ill; their death, consequently, might have been readily explained by "natural causes." of the physicians originally declared. However, from the Moscow judicial trials mankind the Moscow medical world under the guidance of the former head of the secret police, Yagoda, had hastened the death of sick people by means of methods that either are not subject to or are very difficult of detection. From the standpoint of the question that concerns us it is almost a matter of indifference whether the testimony of the accused was truthful or false in the particular concrete instances. It suffices that secret methods of poisoning, spreading infection, causing chills, and generally expediting death G.P.U. Without going into further

NEXT ISSUE OF N. I. PREVIEWED

Brazil is checking up on the The management announces a have died from natural causes,"

1. Canada and World Politics, by E. Robertson.

2. Diplomatic Origins of the Stalinist People's Front Policy, by Max Shachtman. 3. Anniversary article on the

Reiss, his widow.

 An extensive omnibus review red subjects, issued recently "Save America First" by Jerome Frank of the Roosevelt

Administration. 5. Articles on problems now be-

6. The regular features: Editbe announced shortly.

The August issue of The New and the high quality of the articles have resulted in increased demands for the current issue. Orders for the current and forth-The price per single copy is 20 of the illness. The first four days ar with Klement's past but who posal of the French authorities coming issues may yet be placed. cents; and the subscription rate is after the operation were days of wanted to make use of him for and the New York Commission

116 UNIVERSITY PLACE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

atim report of the Bukharin-Rykov trial published by the

Messrs, experts declare that death "might have" also resulted from natural causes. Of course, it might have. However, as is evident from all the circumstances of the case none of the physicians expected Sedoff's death. It is clear that the G.P.U. itself, trailing every step of Sedoff's, could not have pinned its hopes on the possibility that "natural causes" would accomplish their work of February 14, the patient, left destruction without extraneous assistance. Meanwhile, Sedoff's illness and his surgical operation conditions for an intervention of

My attorneys have placed at your disposal, Monsieur le Juge, all the necessary data proving especially after the revelations trial this year in Moscow, it was revealed with cynical frankness had prepared a trap for Sedoff at this favorable situation for their Mulhouse similar in all respects criminal ends? to the trap to which Reiss fell the writer Gorky were not young the criminals and their roles are sick man. But what value have known to you Monsieur le Juge, these testimonies, if the patient investigation, cannot be explained

he warned that he was in excel- a condition of delirious exaltation. learned that the shining lights of lent health; that his spirit had not been broken by the persecutions: nor suicide and should death suddenly strike him, those responsible for it must be sought in Stalin's camp. This issue of Confessions I forwarded to Paris to be placed in your hands, Monsieur le Juge, and that is why I am quoting from memory. Sedoff's prophetic warning, flowing from unimpeachable and universally known facts of a historic magnitude, should, in my opinion, have determined the course and character of the judicial investigation. are included in the arsenal of the The conspiracy of the G.P.U. to shoot, strangle, drown, poison or infect Sedoff was a constant and basic fact in the last two years of his life. His sickness was only an episode. Even in the hospital, Sedoff was compelled to register The September issue of The cult, if only partially, the work of New International will contain the bandits who were dogging his new features to add to an already steps. In these conditions justice highly-attractive and substantial has no right to mollify itself with organ of revolutionary Marxism. an abstract formula: "Sedoff might been established, namely that the

> "natural causes." No Ordinary Case

It may be argued that the however weighty in themselves, Murder of Ignacz Reiss by cannot alter the negative results the Stalinist G.P.U., by Elsa of expert medical examination. I the letter presents an incoherent wrote down what he was ordered, by Dwight Macdonald of after a consultation with compebooks on economics and kind- | tent physicians. That no traces of poison were found does not imply by the Harvard University that no poisoning took place, and Department of Business Ad- in any case it does not imply that ministration; the Brookings the G.P.U. did not resort to some Institute of Economics; and other measures to prevent the tion with the Gestapo; the second testifies that this affair will have strength on the Far Eastern cane land, leases an additional spot of waste land, no matter organism, after an operation, from overcoming the illness. If in quesunder normal living conditions, national which seem to make an ing discussed in the S.W.P. then the findings of medical ex- attempt at explaining the sudden perts, while not exhausting the change in Klement's position. question, would have preserved orial Comments; Dwight Mac- their full force of conviction. But donald's "They, the People"; we have before us a case quite other articles and features to death, unexpected by the physiclear contradiction to hundreds necessary information about the exile, following a prolonged duel Klement up until a very short met with a very enthusiastic re- machine armed with inexhaust- to mutual friends. The letter is openly against you." Needless to ception. The variety of contents lible material, technical and scien- written as if the past had not say, I wish more that anything

obvious improvement in the their purposes.



cial nurse. Yet on the night himself, was found wandering nude and in a state of wild de lirium through the corridors and offered exceptionally favorable premises of the hospital. Doesn't this monstrous fact merit the attention of the experts?

Left Unattended If natural causes must have (must have, not might have) led identity of his patient and the that the G.P.U. considered the to the tragic denouement, then by conditions of his life he would inits most important tasks. Gen- timism of the physicians, owing to be the work of assassins?" erally speaking, French judicial which the patient was left comauthorities can hardly entertain pletely unattended at the most any doubts on this score, follow- critical moment? It is of course ing the three Moscow trials and possible to try to reduce the whole case to an error of prognosis and made by the Swiss and French poor medical care. However, in police in connection with the mur- the materials of the investigation der of Ignace Reiss. For a long there is not even a mention of it. period of time, and especially for It is not difficult to understand the last two years, Sedoff lived in why: if there was inadequate a constant state of siege by a supervision, then does not the con-G.P.U. gang which operates on clusion force itself automatically Parisian territory almost as freely that his enemies, who never lost as in Moscow. Hired assassins sight of Sedoff, could have utilized

The staff of the clinic made an victim. Only chance saved Sedoff attempt, it is true, to list those on that occasion. The names of who had come in contact with the and I do not need to dwell on this had the opportunity, unknown to the staff, of leaving his bed and away as an accident. The ad-On February 4, 1937, Sedoff pub- room, and wandering without hinlished an article in the French drance on anybody's part, tigation of this point, for it could the case and the prophetic words periodical. Confessions, in which through the hospital building in

Turn Unexpected

of the fatal night. He asked Sed- such acts. The doctors-experts. off's wife, Jeanne Martin de Pal- for their part, did not at all into commit suicide?" To this ques- the tragic night. The police infrom the general history of the ficial depositions of individuals

geon known at that moment the

This is precisely the question that is posed in all its force before the judicial investigation. The question is formulated, Monsieur le Juge, not by myself but by the surgeon Thalheimer, even if involuntarily. And to this question I find no answer at all in the materials of the preliminary investigation forwarded to me. I do not find even an attempt to seek an answer. I find no interest in the very question itself. Truly astonishing is the fact that the enigma of the crucial

only unexplained but even unprobed. That time is allowed to lapse, rendering extremely difficult the work of any subsequent turally tried to avoid any invesnot fail to bring to light gross negligence owing to which a gravely sick man was left without At all events, M. Thelheimer, the any attendance and could have surgeon who operated on Sedoff, committed acts fatal to himself was taken unawares by the events or could have been subjected to lieres: "Hasn't the patient tried sist upon clarifying the events of tion, which cannot be deleted vestigation was confined to supersickness, Sedoff himself had sup- who were guilty at least of negli-

Trotsky Tells of 'Letter' from Victim of G.P.U.

By LEON TROTSKY

ceived a letter apparently in the tions" of the G. P. U. We must Coyoacan, Mexico. handwriting of Rudolf Klement, not forget for one moment that in German. The letter is dated Klement was closely familiar under a ficticious name of Martin, July 14 and presumably went via with the life and work of the in order thus to render more dif- Paris and New York. The hand- Fourth International, that he was writing is undoubtedly similar to especially indignant at these "acthe handwriting of Klement but cusations" and that his indignabears an extremely uneven, sickly and feverish character. The letter in dozens of letters. Klement took As to its contents it is one of the of the Moscow trials, and this most fantastic documents that I work, again, is imprinted in nuhave ever held in my hands. To merous letters and documents. powerful G.P.U. had let slip a start with, the salutation - all favorable opportunity to aid the the preceeding letters of Klement, above - developed considerations, L. D." (my initials). This last let- for the lives of people dear to Japan's difficulties in China made reserve the right to return to this piling up of accusations against not bothering to correct obvious me personally, and against my deceased son.

-a series of accusations concerntion here were an ordinary case, ternal life of the Fourth Inter-

Past History Forgotten What is most striking is that cians themselves, of an isolated of letters written by the same postal route of this letter. The formal medical examin- hand and food physically and could speak and come out 'openly' ation is all the more inadequate morally could write like this and if . . . he is still alive. I am imbecause it stubbornly overlooks then only under the dictation of mediately sending a photostatic the central moment in the history other people absolutely unfamili- copy of the letter for the dis-

ministration discharged the spe- puzzle remains as to why his de- it.

lirium should contain the ele This morning, August 1, I re- ments of the well-known "accusation found inimitable expression peculiarly is signed, "Frederic". an active part in the unmasking Where Is Klement?

It is most probable, however, including those written just a that the letter is written in the few days before, begin with the grip of the G. P. U. and that words: "Dear Comrade" or "Dear Klement, in fear for his life or ter begins with the words, "Mr. him, or finally, under the influ-Trotsky." From beginning to end ence of some drugs, submissively the Fourth International, against absurdities. It is even possible that Klement included these absurdities with complete readiness in order, in this fashion, to comkinds: the first - clearly dictated promise the G. P. U.'s plot beby the G. P. U. - the inevitable forehand. In any case this letter to rehabilitate its diplomatic posi- other absentee companies. "bloc" with fascism and connect written and transmitted to me tion in Europe by a show of its aftermath. The very fact of frontier. The risk of war was 20,011 acres, and controls through ing single episodes from the in- Klement's disappearance remains of course the chief mystery. Where is he? What has happened to him? The letter bears no indi-Apparently the letter passed from city to city; the inner envelope the content of the letter in all bears only my initials. I will en-

Archives; besides numerous out of the ordinary, namely, a its details stands in direct and deavor of course to obtain the the door and 6,000 miles away acres and leases 22,000. The "big land laws may remedy some The letter ends with the words: International, out last week, has between him and a mighty state time ago to me personally and "I have no intention to come out gaged in threatening demonstra- the Dominican Steamship Com- porations or individual Puerto existed at all. Only a person tied else that the unfortunate Klement has more clearly evidenced trolling stock interest in the New tracts or 500 acre-lots, for 500

plied an answer in advance in the | gence and therefore interested in above cited article, a year prior covering it up. Yet behind the to his death. The turn for the negligence of some might have worse in the patient's condition easily lurked the criminal will of was so sudden and unexpected, others.

Authorities Fail to Investigate Work

of G.P.U. Assassins

that the surgeon who was ac-French jurisprudence follows quainted neither with the identity of the sick man nor with the con- the formula of investigation ditions of his life, found himself "against X." Under this very compelled to resort to the hypo- formula the investigation is now thesis of suicide. This fact, I re- being conducted into the death of peat, cannot be deleted from the Sedoff. But X in this case does general picture of the illness and not at all remain an "unknown" death of my son! One might, if in the literal sense of the term one were inclined, say that the It is not a question of a chance suspicions of Sedoff's relatives cut-throat who murders a wayand intimates arise from their farer on a highway, and vanishes apprehensiveness. But we have after the murder. It is a question before us a physician, for whom of a very definite international Sedoff was an ordinary patient, gang which has already commitan unknown engineer by the ted more than one crime on the name of Martin. Consequently the territory of France, and which surgeon could not have been in- makes use of and cloaks itself fected with either apprehensive- with friendly diplomatic relaness or political bias. He guided tions. That is the real reason why himself solely by those symptoms the investigation of the theft of which came from the organism of my archives, of the persecutions the sick man. And the first re- of Sedoff, of the attempt to kill action of this eminent and ex- him at Mulhouse, and, finally, why perienced physician to the unex- the present investigation of Sedpected, i.e., unaccounted for by off's death, which has already any "natural causes," turn in the lasted five months, have brought cause was to suspect an attempt and are bringing no results. Seekpalpably evident that had the sur- political factors and forces behind the crime, the investigation proceeds from a fiction that in question here is a simple episode of a extermination of Sedoff as one of what and how explain the op- stantly have asked: "Couldn't this private life; it labels the criminal X and-fails to find him. The criminals will be exposed,

Monsieur le Juge: The radius of the crime is far too great, far too great a number of people and interests often contradictory to each other have been drawn into it: the revelations have already begun, and they will disclose that the threads of a series of crimes lead to the G.P.U. and, through the G.P.U., directly to Stalin. I cannot tell whether French justice will take an active part in these disclosures. I would heartily welcome it, and am prenight has remained thus far not pared for my part to do everything in my power to assist. But, in one way or another, the truth will be discovered!

From the above it follows quite obviously that the investigation into the death of Sedoff has ation of all the circumstances in written by Sedoff himself on February 4, 1937, the investigation cannot but proceed from the assumption that the death was of a violent character. The organizers the fake functionaries of Soviet institutions in Paris. The perpetrators were the agents of these agents recruited from among the White emigres, French or foreign Stalinists and so on. The G.P.U. could not fail to have its agents in a Russian clinic in Paris or among circles closest to it. Such are the paths along which the investigation must proceed, if it, as I should like to hope, seeks to uncover the crime, and not to pursue the line of least resistance. I remain, Monsieur le Juge,

most sincerely yours, Leon Trotsky. July 19, 1938.

JAPAN SEARCHES

(Continued from page 1) flagration in hopes of somehow

pulling themselves out of their Chinese bog, these calculations were upset, at least temporarily. If Japan moved in the first instance at Hitler's advice to see what Moscow's reaction would be, both received a severe jolt because Moscow, confident that sociates.) Together they pro-Russia an easy master along the Siberian frontier, has assumed an and has indicated that it would be just as prepared to call a show 1937.) Many of the smaller comdown here and now if necessary.

Indications are not lacking, indeed, that Moscow was not displeased at having the opportunity 1931 was ground by American and present, obviously, but under con- grinding contracts with small ditions which could not but be plantation owners another 16,096 are built above several feet of favorable to Russia because acres. The South Puerto Rican stagnant water or over the tide Japan is so seriously weakened Sugar Company owns 50,000 acres flats. As many as ten people live cation of the place of mailing. by the failure of its China ad- through a subsidiary, Russell and in tiny one-room hovels. But the

So when Shigemitsu came, hat lates owns 31,000 acres and leases n hand, he was virtually shown | 17,000; and Aguirre owns 25,000 | Soviet guns continued to shell four" also own railway, telephone abuses, it will be no solution. It Japanese positions on the disput- and shipping lines. The South will make little difference whether ed hills and Soviet aircraft en- Puerto Rican Sugar Co. owns the land is held by absentee cortions which the Japanese did not pany and sugar centrals in Santo Rican capitalists and landlords. dare reply to in kind. Nothing Domingo, and Aguirre has a con- whether it is held in immense Japan's desire to retreat from an England Alcohol Company. uncomfortable jam than the fact that not a single Japanese plane has yet taken to the air.

gerous possibility that the border the fact that the value of sugar cultural laborers expropriate U. of Dr. John Dewey. Let us trust clashes will automatically extend and its products represents 70 S. imperialism — and for this health of the operated patient, Theoretically it could still be that the solution of this mysteri- and that both protagonists will per cent of the total value of all they need the help and solidarity THE NEW INTERNATIONAL, whose condition was considered assumed that Klement has lost ous case will be found and that find themselves in the midst of Puerto Rican products, and cane of the workers in the United so favorable that the hospital ad- his mind. But in this case the complete light will be shed upon a war that neither has really de- growing occupies 40 per cent of States-there will be no prospersired at this time.

Two items in the recent dis-Medical Men Find Death Mysterious, But patches from Prague throw a piercing light on the true character of the capitalist democracies which are being touted by social reformists, Stalinists and so-called liberals as bulwarks in the fight against the Fascist dictatorships.

> Item No. 1. A large group of Viennese Jews, after being deprived of all their possessions, were deported across the Czech border two weeks ago. Discovered by the police of that democratic republic, the Viennese Jews were rounded up and arrested. Unable to show entry permits or to explain by what means they intended to support themselves, they were redeported over the Austrian bor-

One of the most heinous cruelties of the Fascist dictatorships is their maniacal anti-Semitism. One of the "basic principles" of the democracies is the right of asylum to refugees. To the Jews who have to bear the actual brunt of Nazi atrocities, the "basic principles" of capitalist democracy have proved precious little, in action. No property-no right of asylum! That's how a democratic principle is interpreted under capitalism.

Item No. 2. The Czech Na-

tionalist Party, the organization of the Czech Fascists, which has six deputies in the Prague parliament, has rallied to the democratic government in its hour of danger. Faced with the threat of a Hitler invasion of the Sudeten German area to ald the cause of Henlein's Nazis, the Czech Fascists have decided to rewrite their constitution to include a clause in defense of

democracy! For the defense of the status quo, for the defense of predatory nationalist aims, the Czech Fascists have thus shown themselves just as facile as our Stalinists in bandying about the slogans of bourgeois democracy.

In raising the banner of the Socialist United States of Europe, in refusing to be encompassed by the wave of social-patriotism, in calling for an intensification of the class struggle, the Czech revolutionists prove themselves to be far more realistic fighters against Fascism than all the People's Fronters. The latter are only preparing the road for further Fascist victories by their supernationalistic politics, both at home as well as over the border.

at suicide on the part of the paling to avoid being involved in the completely real and powerful Sugar Companies Grab Lands in Puerto Rico

Editorial Note.-Recent events in the Caribbean have forcefully reminded the American people that Yankee imperialism holds sway in those islands to the south. Strikes and peasant revolts have forced the government to send troops against the oppressed colonials. The reception Governor Winthrop received at a "celebration" of the annexation of Puerto Rico by the United States was a rude shock to those who expected the islanders to meekly accept the most terrible exploitation.

The article below deals with the manipulations of the huge sugar corporations that own the island of Puerto Rico. This brief sketch depicts vividly the ruthless oppression practiced by the masters of the Caribbean.

By FRANCES MERRILL

The Puerto Rican Supreme enacted by Congress in 1917 as part of the Island's Organic Act, but it was not implemented until 1935. The Supreme Court ordered the Rubert Hermanos sugar company, owner of the central San Vicente to dissolve, and fined it \$3,000. The small fine was explainwhich the law was disregarded by the authorities. Cases against the Fajardo Sugar Company and the Central Cambaleche are pending, with further hearings to be

The big sugar companies, dominated by absentee capitalists in the United States, own or control the greater part of the sugar lands in the four chief cane sections that fringe the Puerto Rican coast. All of the most fertile soil is "the property of men who seldom or never see the Island except dividends." (Diffie: Puerto Rico, A Broken Pledge.) Rubert Hermanos, Inc., the company convicted under the act, is one of the smaller ones, owning 12,188 acres and producing 31,247 tons

of sugar in 1935-6. One of "Big Four"

The Central Cambaleche is about the same size, but the indicted Fajardo Sugar Company is one of the "big four" American corporations that dominate the industry. (The others are the South Puerto Rican Sugar Company, Central Aguirre Sugar Company, and Eastern Sugar Asduced nearly half of the total output for 1935-6; 399,207 tons out of 880,908. Fajardo's output was 104,aggressively defensive position 207 tons. (Figures from Farr's Manual of Sugar Companies, panies are American or foreign owned. According to Diffie, about 60 per cent of the sugar crop in

Fajardo owns 30,132 acres of Sugar Pays Dividends

The commanding position of these sugar corporations in Puer-

the Island's greatest source of wealth. The sugar companies Court on August 1 upheld a Con- have been highly profitable to gressional resolution passed in their American stockholders. The 1900 limiting the amount of land principal companies by 1931 had held by a corporation to 500 a- paid dividends sufficient to recres, but which has never been place their original investment enforced. The land law was re- many times over. Dividends exceeding 100 per cent a year have been known, and from 10 to 30 per cent is the rule.

How little American sugar imperialism has contributed to the Island's prosperity, however, is indicated by the wages paid the native workers on the plantations ed by the long period during and in the centrals. For 1936-7, wages for men employed on the plantations averaged \$3.65 a week, or 12.8 cents an hour. In the sugar factories they averaged \$7.73 a week or 171/2 cents an hour. The sugar companies have also contributed far less than their share of taxes, for their property has been scandalously under-assessed.

Land Pressing Problem

The ownership and use of the land is one of the most urgent Puerto Rican problems, Populaand who have no interest in it tion density in Puerto Rico is more than 500 to the square mile. Only one-fourth of the total land area is cultivable, with the result that every square mile in cultivation must support over 1800 people. The State of S. Carolina is comparable to Puerto Rico in that it is 80 per cent rural, a similar proportion, but in South Carolina there are only 55 persons to a square mile and the per capita wealth is more than six times that of Puerto Rico.

The monopoly of the land by the sugar companies has reduced the land available for other crops with the result that the Island must import practically all its food from the United Statesagain paying tribute to American imperialism through both the costs of the food and American steamship lines. The land monopoly has also lessened the area available for housing to the point of distress.

The workers in the sugar industry cannot live on the cane lands. They must crowd into the scabrous, malodorous slums that fringe the coastal towns. Every how unfit for decent living, is Company; Eastern Sugar Assoc- acreage in sugar has expanded ten-fold since 1900.

Although enforcement acres of valuable sugar land is no trifle. There is only one real solution: ownership of the land by those who work it. Until the There remains always the dan- to Rican economy is obvious from Puerto Rican workers and agriall land in crops. Cane land is ity for the Puerto Rican masses.