

# IN THE WORLD OF LABOR

By Paul G. Stevens

## The Electoral Campaign in Belgium

As a result of the appointment of the Flemish nationalist Martens to the Academy, the cabinet of Premier Spaak fell and unleashed a national crisis, in which King Leopold III intervened with a letter to Spaak's successor, Pierlot, that had all the earmarks of a threat to install a Bonapartist regime in Belgium. Martens had been pacifist and anti-government during the late war.

The crisis had, of course, been brewing for some time around economic and foreign policy issues and was only set off by the Martens affair. It culminated in the dissolution of parliament and the calling of general elections for April 2. The Martens issue is being made the most of by the Fascists (the "Rex" movement led by Degrelle). The Labor Party (P.O.B.) is concentrating on the slogan "Against Defeatism." In reality, the Martens affair merely conceals the struggle for national independence of the Flemish section of Belgium, which is discriminated against by the Walloons; while the deflation policy of the Belgian capitalists is inseparable from their wholesale attack against the social legislation wrested by the workers for many years as well as from their armaments program.

The Revolutionary Socialist Party (P.S.R.), Belgian section of the Fourth International, is entering the general elections fresh from a big success in the communal elections last fall, when they gained an absolute majority in the Municipal Council of Fleny. The P.S.R., in its election manifesto, poses the issues before the workers as they really are.

They point out that "the institution of a union of Socialist Soviet Republics of Flanders and Wallonia" is the only permanent answer to the acute national problem revealed by the Martens crisis, at the same time stressing their adherence to the right of self-determination of peoples in any case.

They warn against the royalist Bonapartist danger and call for the preparation of the General Strike and the armed insurrection against any attempt to install a dictatorship.

They call for the application of the transition program of the Fourth International against the deflation and anti-labor plans of the Belgian bosses.

If the results of the municipal elections were any indication, our Belgian comrades should make considerable progress this coming April 2.

## Cooperatives Join British Unions in Revolt Against "Register"

This column has previously reported the revolt of local trade union councils and Labour party

branches against the "National Register" conscription scheme of the Chamberlain government, despite its endorsement by the Labour party executive and the T.U.C. Naturally, the Cooperative Union leadership, like the other labor bureaucrats, also favored the plan. Now word comes that local cooperative societies all over England have joined in the revolt of the rank and file and are preparing to fight out the issue at the annual Conference of the Cooperative Party at Easter.

Among those who have joined in this anti-war movement are the local societies in such important cities as Watford, Bristol, Macclesfield, St. George, Glasgow, Birkenhead, Manchester and Salford.

Particularly outspoken was the action of the Cooperative Society at Southampton, which is proposing the following amendment for adoption by the annual conference:

"This Annual Conference of the Cooperative Party registers the strongest protest against any form of National Register of man-power, believing it to be the first step towards conscription and an instrument which may be used by the Government against the working class. It calls on every section of the Cooperative Movement to refuse any invitation which may be received to cooperate in the operation of the National Register."

Obviously, the crusade for the holy war of the "democracies" against the fascisms—looming more ominously since the latest Hitlerite conquests—is going to hit upon considerable snags before it is fully launched, not only in the United States, where the Gallup Poll has recently again confirmed the overwhelmingly anti-war sentiment of the masses, but in Great Britain as well. The fact that the sentiment is purely rank and file in character and pitted against the powerful propaganda of the unanimous accepted leadership appears to be indicative of revolutionary developments breaking sooner in the coming war crisis than was the case in the last World War.

## A Correction on the New Danish Party

In reporting the formation of the new Danish party of the Fourth International recently, this column mistakenly said that a Danish representative was present at the International Conference last September in Geneva. The Danes first applied for admission to the Fourth International upon constituting the International Kom-munistisk Parti after the Conference and could not, therefore, have been represented at that time.

# Madrid Crushed Under Heel of Franco As Junta Invites Fascist Hordes to Enter

## POPULAR FRONT OFFERS FRANCO SERVILE TERMS

(Continued from Page 1) at Burgos on Sunday reported that the Popular Front Junta's negotiators had told Franco that the Junta "was anxious to comply with the Nationalist (fascist) instructions," but "it felt that it had not sufficient authority with various political and military elements to enforce compliance and consequently would welcome the initiation of an offensive to enable a surrender under war conditions."

**Junta's Surrender "Terms"** Certainly the terms proposed by the Junta for surrender contained nothing which Franco could not grant, and yet kept a free hand for the coming blood-bath against the workers and peasants in Loyalist territory.

A communique issued by the Junta Sunday night revealed that even the one condition which the Junta was ostensibly created to secure—amnesty—was now being asked for in terms perfectly acceptable to Franco. For it asked no reprisals or sanctions "unless decreed by corresponding courts"—a formula under which Franco can decimate all Loyalist Spain. The Junta, in its broadcast, said that the fascists had agreed that "criminal offenses" would be dealt with exclusively in corresponding courts.

**Junta's Main Interest** The real meat of the Junta's proposals for surrender is contained in the request that "employment of the Republican military, other than those found guilty of criminal offenses, should be respected," "similar concessions to non-professional soldiers who have risen from the ranks of the former militia," and, likewise, "employment of civil officials should be respected."

In other words, these traitors consider the main problem in turning over Loyalist Spain to Franco, to be assurances from him that he will incorporate them in his military and civil apparatus.

But servile as these surrender terms were, they were insufficient for Franco. Having permitted the Junta, and the Negri cabinet before it, thoroughly to demoralize the remaining Loyalist troops by their surrender proposals, he now prefers to wave aside parleys and enter Madrid without even the appearance of formal commitments to the Loyalists.

Such is the horrible end of the road to which the Popular Front policy, the strategy of crushing the worker-peasant masses in the name of "anti-fascism," has brought the Spanish people. Here is a terrible lesson for the American working class.

## Not a Peep Out Of C. P. on Miaja

The Daily Worker, central organ of the Communist Party, has refused to comment on the fact, published in the March 21 issue of the Appeal, that General Jose Miaja is a member of the Spanish Communist Party.

Miaja, butcher of the Madrid anti-Fascists and head of the treacherous Junta which is now seeking peace with Franco, has never been expelled from the Communist Party.

"The President of the famous Madrid Defense Commission, Comrade Miaja, is a member of the Communist Party. His work, with that of the other delegates, will go down in history."

These words appeared in the official organ of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, the "International Press Correspondence," (Im-precour), February 6, 1937 (Vol. 17, No. 6, page 121).

Does the Communist Party think it can bury its crimes against the working class with the silent, heroic dead of Madrid, murdered by the Communist Party?

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## Pro-War Advocates Stage Exercise in Flag-Waving Patriotism Gushes at "Stop Hitler" Parade of C. P. Stooze Outfits

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK—About 20,000 persons marched Saturday afternoon in a Stalinist-led parade which attempted to whip up jingo spirit for American participation in a new imperialist war. Seeking to take advantage of the anti-fascist sentiment of New York's masses, it was called a "Stop Hitler" parade. But the slogans and speeches were all designed to support Roosevelt in a war of conquest.

Speeches by Mayor La Guardia, Rabbi Stephen Wise, the Bavarian Princess Halga zu Lowenstein, and others, sought to rouse the crowd to a pro-war fervor.

**Stooze Outfits** Organized by a new-born Stalinist stooze committee, "The American Council to Combat Nazi Invasion," the parade was made up primarily of a score of Stalinist organizations such as the American League for Peace and Democracy, the International Workers Order, the American Student Union, the North American Committee, the Friends of the Soviet Union, and the Jewish People's Committee, together with some Slovak and Czech nationalist societies, several Stalinist-controlled unions such as the Fur Workers Union and the United Office and Professional Workers Union also marched.

The main slogans shouted or carried on placards were as follows: "Support President Roosevelt's Stand Condemning Nazi Invasion," "Stop Wanton Lawlessness," "Stop Nazi Spying in the United States" and "Apposement Won't Work." Czech and Slovak organizations carried banners reading: "Restore Democratic Czechoslovakia," "Return Memel to Lithuania" and "Keep Hitler out of Rumania."

**"We're in the Army Now"** Slogans for collective security were few and far between. What may account for the failure to give prominence to the "collective security" theme calling on Daladier and Chamberlain to unite the "democracies" against Hitler was the uncertainty of the parade organizers, the Stalinists, about their own line. The recent overtures made by Stalin to Hitler for a military pact made the C. P. leaders a bit cautious.

A contingent of more than 60 girls, all bearing American flags, headed the parade. Bands marching in the parade continuously played "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner." One of the bands kept playing "We're in the Army Now"—the old doughboy

song of the last imperialist war to "make the world safe for democracy!" One group of marchers kept shouting "Stop Propaganda in the U.S.A." without even bothering to mention whose propaganda they wanted to stop.

**For Dies Investigation** Stalinist groups kept shouting: "Make Martin Dies Investigate the Nazi Spies," demonstrating the willingness of the Communist Party to co-operate with the arch reactionary red-baiter to create a patriotic spirit. This is what the "Democratic Front" means.

In a crude effort to cover up the Roosevelt Administration's constant refusal to open the doors of the United States to refugees from fascist persecution, signs bore the inscription "Keep America Open for Refugees." The word "keep" implies that the refugees are permitted to come to the United States today.

But with all the patriotic slogans, with all the brass bands, and even with the color supplied by the Slovak and Czech groups dressed in their native costumes, the entire parade lacked life and spirit.

**Union Sections Small** Leaders of the parade expected and predicted that more than 200,000 would march. Only 20,000 turned out. The union sections in the march were very small. Usually in Stalinist parades there is a spirited chanting of slogans. But on Saturday, only here and there could groups be found that were enthusiastic about their shouting. The parade fell flat in its objective of whipping up a war spirit.

Despite all the propaganda for war that the people have been subjected to during the past few weeks through the radio, the press, and the movies, the on-lookers showed no particular solidarity with the marchers.

## Gandhi Gives "Advice" To British Imperialists

By SHERMAN STANLEY Mohandas K. Gandhi, the Mahatma of India, has offered the world his advice on the present world crisis. Perhaps this is the result of inspirational dreams after his 4-day fast in Rajkot. Almost anything can happen on an empty stomach!

This advice is about as useful as his advice to the Czech masses during the first Munich crisis. Then he urged them to lay down in front of the onrushing German tanks!

Now Gandhi urges the "democratic" imperialist nations to disarm themselves "simultaneously." Then, the idea is, Hitler will be shamed into doing likewise. Or, perhaps, Hitler will drop dead with surprise when "peace-loving" Chamberlain scuttles the British navy!

Incidentally, we never heard of Gandhi demanding the disarmament of the British and Native armies that trample upon India. And we recall how in 1914 this "pacifist-at-any-price" gentleman urged 1½ million Indian soldiers to fight on Britain's side during the World War.

**Crazy Like a Fox** Gandhi's advice would be in the nature of a joke, or the empty hallucinations of an old man if it were not for certain other facts in his interview with a N.Y. Times correspondent. To expect the "democratic" imperialism of this world to strip themselves of armaments on the very eve of what may be a new world struggle between themselves and the fascist imperialism is equivalent to expecting the capitalists of this earth to hand over their factories to the workers.

But Gandhi is no senile, half-crazy old man. As the saying goes—"he is crazy—yeah, like a fox!" Inside this shrunken-up head lurks one of the shrewdest brains of the Far East. By posing as an "absolute" pacifist, Gandhi attempts to perform the double purpose of (1) deceiving his own following who genuinely oppose war—especially on the side of Britain, and (2) preparing for his inevitable—and ardent—support of British imperialism when the war does come. Gandhi figures that people will say: "It must be a good war—even Gandhi is for it!"

## TEACHERS' UNION TURNS JINGO IN A VERY BIG WAY

(Continued from Page 1) at a previous meeting, and in whose substance had been given the usual pre-arranged ovations for Max Diamond and Bella Dodd, administration whips.

**Anti-War Program** After Feingold's report, the progressive Independent group (anti-Stalinist minority) introduced a four-point resolution: to disaffiliate from the American League; to support the Ludlow Amendment; to reiterate the union's position against armaments and demand that the arms billions be used for relief, schools, and homes; and to open the columns of the "New York Teacher" to a democratic discussion of the war question, with equal space given to all views.

The Independent speakers pointed out the preposterous word-usage of the American League program, such as, "We are opposed to any increase in armaments as a substitute for the development of a positive program."

The joker is that the Stalinists interpret Roosevelt's program as a positive peace program and are therefore willing to give him all the arms he wants.

**Stalinists For War** When hard-pressed, the union administration admitted its support of the munitions-makers. Matthew Besdine stated that to implement the American League program, battleships were needed. The slogan of the union for years had been, "Build schools, not battleships."

Herbert Klein, American League spokesman, replied to the minority with the familiar Stalinist charges that the anti-war speakers were "Hitler's Fifth Column," that they agreed with Mussolini on the Ludlow Referendum, that any one who didn't support the President was playing into the hands of the Hoovers and the Coughlins.

To the Independents' analysis of imperialist war and their statement that Roosevelt was responsible for the Spanish embargo, the administration replied only by further insinuations, notably the lie that the anti-Stalinists had not supported the Spanish workers.

When the Independents pointed out the hypocrisy of the "good neighbor" policy and showed that Latin American dictatorships suppress the masses with the support of American imperialism, an administration spokesman demagogically proclaimed, "Roosevelt is the hope of mankind." Thunderous applause from the hardened Stalinist elements greeted this poetic statement.

**Stalinist "Democracy"** The "New York Teacher" was a sore point in the discussion. For a year the magazine has uniformly rejected articles by Independents against armaments and war. The administration alleged that there was no space for anything but articles of purely teacher interest, and that furthermore the magazine couldn't print controversial matter on which the union had taken no stand. The Independents cited a defense of collective security that had been printed. The union's anti-war position had of course not been presented in the union press this year.

The bureaucracy, in true Stalinist fashion, simply changed the policy first and consulted the membership later.

Particularly vulnerable on the subject of the Ludlow amendment, the union leaders were content to repeat the American League's fence-straddling: "We stand for the right to vote on war, but in view of the time required for a constitutional amendment" and so forth.

**War Means Dictatorship** The Independents repeatedly showed the connection between war and a military dictatorship, with consequent snuffing out of civil liberties. The administration was silent on this key question. Evidently the gagging of teachers and the smashing of trade unions is all right for the Stalinists as long as it happens in a war.

Though the Independents put up an excellent fight to keep the Teachers Union from becoming a part of the war machine, the vote was a foregone conclusion. The Stalinists are too strongly entrenched to be shaken by one such debate. It is fortunate that there is an organized opposition in the union which is fighting the iron-Stalinist war-mongering machine. But it will take cruel experience to teach the teachers duped by Stalinism the real nature of imperialist war.

# HOLLYWOOD MERRY-GO-ROUND

Not since Hector was a pup has there been anything similar or comparable to the revival of the Wild Western. In recent months, moviegoers have seen more horse operas than they can ever hope to put saddles on. In a word, the screen has literally been converted into a corn field.

There can be no quarrel with the technical excellence with which many of these films have been handled. Indeed, there hasn't been such ecstatic use of the camera anywhere as in the filming of "Stagecoach." The use of technicolor has, of course, greatly enhanced the appeal of many of these films, as well as providing the technicolor artificers with superb backgrounds for the application of their medium.

## Technically Perfect—Ideologically Suspect

And while there can be no quarrel with these films as motion pictures, there is, nevertheless, the motive for them. The discerning moviegoer, after having been kicked around by more broncos than he can break with a tommy-hawk, will begin to understand that what is supposed to be an innocent Wild Western is essentially another device for arousing his best patriotic impulses.

For what else can be said for many of the current horse operas than that they seek to remind the audience of America's "glorious" past; of that day long past when men and women braved the mountains and the deserts and the wilderness to build America. True, America, and especially the west, was built at great human suffering and sacrifice. But that saga as it is re-toold today has essentially the significance of a well made recruiting poster.

Hollywood, in its special task of preparing the masses to reight the war for "democracy," would be remiss in its duty if it did not constantly remind us that we are the fated posterity to whom has fallen the lot of cherishing and defending the heritage of the great "democratic" past.

**At the Filmfare** The French seem to have a particular, almost fastidious, addiction to repetitious names. Or perhaps they've acquired a taste for double talk. As if Simon Simone were not enough, the French only recently introduced us to a gentleman who goes by the name Noel Noel. Then, again, for some time now we've been acquainted with Fi-Fi, our neighbor's maid, who has gone to great lengths to explain the meaning of "out-out." But now comes a French comedy entitled "Bizarre Bizarre," and by some strange coincidence it had its American premiere in New York, New York.

The Filmfare management informed us that they were presenting "Bizarre Bizarre" with its tongue in cheek. After leaving the theatre, we felt as if they had shoved a thumb in our eye. For although the picture has a few fleeting moments of hilarious slapstick comedy, most of it bogs down like a Mack Sennett pie. If you're in the mood for Gallic high jinks, you'll see it. If you're not, stay home and beat your grandmother.

**FILM DEPARTMENT** The National Film Department of the Party announces that it has available for immediate use by the Branches the documentary picture "Tsar to Lenin," commentary by Max Eastman. Projection apparatus and service accompanies the film. Provision has been made for at least 15 showings within the next 90 days. Cash should be sent with all requests for bookings. Most states do not require licenses; those which do, grant them readily. Write John G. Wright at 116 University Pl., New York City.

Branches wishing to show a double feature can also be supplied with the fifteen-minute short "Appeal in the Making."

**JOBLESS, HE KILLS HIMSELF** Unemployed for two years, and despondent, Nicholas Crivellone, 50, killed himself with a revolver today in the kitchen of his apartment at 450 West 163rd St. His wife told police he was formerly an I.R.T. guard.

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# On the Line . . . with Bill Morgan

Shining shoes is a very poor business—especially in Tompkins Square Park. Not only are there many other boys trying to earn a dollar to take home, put the shoes in such a park are very dirty and very old. And not many men can afford a shine even if it costs only a nickel. So Joseph didn't have a hope of becoming rich.

Thirty-five cents a day was about the limit. But Joseph also made friends with the other boys and this to him was worth more than the money. Friends are necessary if a fellow wants to get along in this world. A friend like Jake, for instance, was worth more than anything because Jake knew the shoe-shine business and also knew how to fight.

Joe and Jake would play at marbles or cards together and talk about things. Jake was smart and knew all the answers. Jake taught Joe the way to get results at the Relief Bureau. He explained how his father had joined up with a union of unemployed men and had gone to the relief office with a committee of unemployed men and women. "They just got a little tough," said Jake.

**The Union Arranges the Funeral** Joe went home early that day. He was anxious to tell his father about Jake and how Jake's father got attention from the Relief.

When he walked into the house he knew something was wrong. His mother was crying. His sister was crying and coughing and the babies were very quiet—they were so scared at all the noise. Joe looked around and saw his father—dead on the floor.

Downstairs two steps at a time—around the corner and over to the Park. Jake was still there. "Hey! Jake, come here . . ."

When Jake's father and the committee from the unemployed union arrived, they found the landlord and a lot of neighbors in the flat. Everybody was excited and nobody knew what to do. Some one sent for the police. Jake's father immediately kicked everybody out of the house and began to make arrangements. "We got to have a meeting of the executive committee," he said. "We got to arrange for a funeral. We got to raise some money." Joe wanted to die he felt so scared and so afraid that his mother would never stop crying. But he was glad Jake's father was there.

After a while some women from the union came with food and began to clean up the house and make everything ready for the meeting. Men came with some money which they said was contributed from the union. They called Jake's father "Comrade." Comrade . . . that was a nice name Joe thought it must be an American name because he had never heard it before.

**The Priest Asks Fifty Dollars** That night there was a meeting at the unemployed union hall. Many workers came and there were women and children, too. Jake's father made a speech. It was a fine speech and Joe cried and felt very sick in his heart. The peo-

ple were very angry and said something must be done. The hall was covered with signs which said, "Give the Bankers Home Relief—We Want Jobs!" and "Workers of the World, Unite!" And after the meeting some people took Joe to their house and put him to bed with his sister and the babies. His mother sat in the kitchen, while the women from the union tried to make her stop crying. There were so many friends, now. If only his father were here to see these friends. But it was too late.

In the morning a Priest came and said that fifty dollars would arrange for a funeral. Who had fifty dollars? The Priest said John had not been a good man because he didn't go to mass and didn't send the children to Sunday school. He said the Church would forgive everything if Joe's mother paid the fifty dollars. The mother cried and said she was a good woman. Joe got very angry at the Priest.

Jake's father came in and told the Priest to get out. "You didn't come around when John was hungry. You didn't come to see him when he needed help, so get out. There is no money here." Jake's father was angry. The Priest called the police. The police said Jake was a Red. The police said the Priest was only there to help.

## Newspapers Print the Story

In the afternoon all the newspapers printed the news and then some men from the Stone-Cutters Union came and gave Joe's mother some money. They knew Jake's father because they called him "Comrade" like the others from the unemployed union.

The next day there was a funeral. The men from the unions made speeches. They said the unemployed must fight and not die. They said everyone would always remember John. They said the Relief Bureau was to blame for this death. They called Joe's father "Comrade."

Then the police came again and took John's body away to the Church where another funeral was held, but only Joe and his mother were allowed to go along with the police. The friends from the unions were threatened by the police. Reporters from the newspapers wrote everything in the papers.

## "We Gotta Organize"

After the funeral the Relief investigator came and gave Joe's mother some money. "Your case has been accepted," she said, "and you must not associate with those people from the unemployed union. They are Reds and will only make trouble for you."

Joe went with Jake to the park and Jake explained everything. "We gotta organize all the unemployed, so nobody will go and haag themselves. We gotta fight for jobs and we gotta fight all the time. The union will take care of the Relief Bureau. We have to build the union." And Joe, who was now the man in his family, listened carefully and thought it over. Yeah, if we don't put up a fight, they will just let us go and die. I learned that anyway. We better start now to get in all those people who live on my block. Come on, let's get going, comrade."

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