

By Dwight Macdonald

SPARKS IN THE NEWS

Time Marches On!

"Socialism and jingoism seem to mix very well in England. During the last general election, one of the biggest guns on the Tory side was the German war-scare blatherer, written for the Daily Mail by Robert Blatchford...

C.I.O. and W.P.A.

When President Roosevelt several weeks ago asked Congress to reduce the W.P.A. rolls from 3,000,000 to 2,000,000, a deep silence spread over a large part of the labor and left wing press...

MEN AND WOMEN OF LABOR

OUT OF THE PAST

By EMANUEL GARRETT

MOTHER JONES

(May 1, 1830-Nov. 30, 1930) "You don't need a vote to raise hell," said Mother Jones. And hell she did raise wherever she went; and she went pretty near everywhere in the cause of the working class.

Known to Every Worker

Mary Harris Jones, a woman of forty, came into contact with the Knights of Labor. She had never before been a member of a union. But the Knights of Labor inspired her to try life's work.

Essentially, Mother Jones was a revolutionary, though she herself probably never realized it. Theory wasn't her strong point; frequently she made errors (e.g., supporting the Democratic party in 1916).

It made little difference to Mother Jones which union was running a strike—A.F.L., or I.W.O. She participated in both. For the most part, she worked among the miners; for many years she was officially employed by the United Mine Workers though she despised John Mitchell, president of the U.M.W.U.,

2,000,000. On the front page was a big headline: "LEWIS URGES W.P.A. JOBS FOR THREE MILLION." The "YOUR W.P.A. JOB" column begins: "The C.I.O. has fired the opening gun in its national campaign to make the W.P.A. adequately serve the needs of the unemployed during the next fiscal year."

Mountain Labors, Bears Mouse (Dead)

At long last the group of intellectuals of which Professor Sidney Hook is the leading spirit has made its public debut. The group began in a small way last fall as "The League Against Totalitarianism." It has been gathering recruits ever since, and now it comes out in the N. Y. Times as "The Committee for Cultural Freedom" with a ringing denunciation of all tyranny and despotism wherever it may rear its ugly head, whether in Fascist Italy and Germany or in Soviet Russia.

LED BY JOHN DEWEY REVOLT AGAINST FAILURE TO DENOUNCE REDS.

"The people of Puerto Rico, under the heel of the Roosevelt 'democrats,' realize just how hypocritical are these imperialists who write speeches on democracy with one hand and use their other hand to suppress all freedom of speech, press and assembly, and to throw into the Atlanta Penitentiary those who advocate, merely advocate, mind you, the application of the principles of the Declaration of Independence to our island."

Democracy Scrapped in War Preparations

Roosevelt Moves Do Not Deceive Puerto Ricans

"Only by Smashing the Grip of Yankee Imperialism" Can Puerto Rican Freedom Be Attained, Says Spokesman in Interview

By DIEGO MONTANEZ

Roosevelt's appointment of Admiral William D. Leahy to supersede General Blanton Winship as Governor of Puerto Rico was acutely commented upon this week by Lorenzo Pineiro, Secretary-General of the Executive Committee of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party in the United States.

Freedom of speech, press and assembly, and to throw into the Atlanta Penitentiary those who advocate, merely advocate, mind you, the application of the principles of the Declaration of Independence to our island.

No Faith in C. E. This correspondent raised the question of the Communist Party and its congressional stooge, Marcantonio. The latter has for some time been posing as a "friend" of the Puerto Ricans.

But now the Puerto Ricans are beginning to see through him. As Pineiro put it, "the Stalinites and their ilk are interested only in lining up the Puerto Ricans in support of Roosevelt and Yankee imperialism for the next war."

See War Schemes

The Nationalist Party, which is supported in its struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico by a large part of the Puerto Rican people, understands, said Pineiro, the meaning of the war preparations of the United States government. They know that the speeches about "democracy" and "poor little countries in Central Europe" are, as he put it, "so much eyewash to cover up Yankee imperialism's own ruthless destruction of the liberties and freedom of Puerto Rico, to say nothing of the rest of Latin America."

The Puerto Ricans are the largest group in New York's great Spanish-speaking colony, which numbers several hundred thousand.

Special Offer! TWO BOUND VOLUMES of the SOCIALIST APPEAL 1937 and 1938 Both for only \$3.00—including postage This 25% reduction holds good for only a few weeks!

C. P. SABOTAGES ACTION OF FLINT JOBLESS UNION

(Continued from Page 1) Newspaper advertising didn't materialize. Meanwhile the C.I.O. leaders made their position clear—"now isn't the time" for a demonstration.

Under these conditions, the demonstration was a complete failure. The parade was called off. A few hundred people gathered in Kearsley Park, miles away from the "Death Watch" and the relief offices.

Genora Johnson Attacked Having made sure that the demonstration would be a fizzle, the Stalinites and C.I.O. tops launched a slander campaign against Genora Johnson, outstanding unemployed leader and advocate of militant action.

The fight is, however, far from being over. What the unemployed want is fighting action against starvation, layoffs and eviction. What they want is actions like the "Death Watch."

The situation is daily becoming more critical. Today the welfare offices were closed for a two week period because of lack of funds. No relief will be given out until June.

The June budget is \$20,000 less than the frightfully inadequate May budget which lasted only half-a-month. Thousands more will be thrown out on the streets if the June budget is not raised above the \$250,000 now allotted.

Immediate action is necessary. Stalinites sabotage cannot be allowed to stand in the way. All attempts to transplant the belly-crawling, bootlicking policies of the Stalinites Workers Alliance into the C.I.O. must be halted. The lives of thousands of workers and their families are at stake.

U. S. ACTS FOR WALL STREET'S CHINA PROFITS

The Roosevelt government again served sharp notice on Japan last week that it intended to defend Wall Street's "rights" in China.

In recent weeks the Japanese have been emboldened by the crisis in Europe to take more definite moves toward driving their British, French, and American rivals out of their footholds in the foreign concessions in China. Demands were made for the International Settlement at Shanghai to be placed under the more direct control of the Japanese.

As a trial move, Japanese marines landed at the smaller and less important concession in Amoy, southeast in south Fukien. Roosevelt, who a few weeks ago spectacularly ordered the American fleet back into the Pacific as a direct warning to Japan, cracked right back. The American cruiser Marblehead and a destroyer were ordered to Amoy and a landing party of marines put ashore in Zulusang, the settlement area.

On May 17 a sharp American note was sent to Japan rejecting the Japanese demand for a larger share in control of the Shanghai settlement. In this the British and French were likewise expected to join.

By these measures, moreover which the Japanese staged a prompt strategic retreat, Roosevelt again served notice that the fleet is not in the Pacific to play games but to be prepared for the approaching day when American imperialism intends to put an end, by its superior armed force, to the rival threat of the Japanese.

The incident also served to confirm once more the now generally understood fact that Roosevelt has a "wink of the eye" understanding with Britain that the United States will "take care" of the Pacific battlefield when the guns begin dealing death once more in Europe. It is to help this understanding along and to sell the idea to the war-hating people of this country, that England's king and queen have come over to this side of the Atlantic.

World Powers Prepare War-Time Dictatorship

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In Hitlerite Germany. It will usher in censorship of the press and of all other channels of information and put an end to the formal fiction of the "freedom" of the newspapers in "democratic" Britain.

Democracy Disappears When war comes the meager "democracy" which in England disguises the slave-holding rule of the Empire over 400,000,000 black, brown, and yellow subjects, will disappear completely.

In France the parliamentary trappings have already been largely dispensed with. Daladier rules by decree and has already instituted a dictatorial regime over the entire working class, and has done so with the active aid of the trade union leaders, and the Socialist and Communist parties.

The "opposition" of the Socialists and Communists to Daladier has become purely formal, like the "opposition" of the British Labour Party to conscription in England. Last week when Daladier banged on the war drums in the chamber of deputies, as reported in the New York Times, he "drew from the chamber the very unusual spectacle of really unanimous applause. Everybody from Louis Marin on the extreme right to Andre Marty on the Communist benches applauded again and again."

With this benevolent support from the Socialist and Stalinist parties, Daladier has cracked down hard on the French workers and has wiped out the last vestiges of the social gains of the People's Front honeymoon, over which Daladier himself had presided. That the 40-hour week has been abandoned has been a fact now for several months. The actual regime now imposes a 60-hour week on workers in all essential industries.

Worst of all would be for us in this country to have illusions about the fate of our "rights" as war draws closer and we are sucked into it. The stream of so-called "anti-alien bills" now before Congress already cast the black shadow of the regime of the concentration camp over the workers of the United States.

The official abandonment of even the pretense of a struggle in behalf of the workers was abandoned, meanwhile, by the official bulletin of the International Trade Union Fed-

eration, to which the French General Confederation of Labor is affiliated. After describing the fate of the shorter work week in France, the bulletin states that it would be "well to postpone the discussion on the generalization of the reduction of hours in industry and Commerce" and proposed resumption of discussion (Only of "discussion," mind you!) to some uncertain future "when the chances of success are greater."

"On the one hand, the representatives of the workers will certainly use all their influence on the governments to prevent the question disappearing completely from the agenda, while, on the other, it is no less obvious that the workers, realizing what is the present situation, will understand that in view of the tremendous threat of the totalitarian countries, it is necessary for the defense of peace and freedom (1) to agree to an effort which will allow of this peril being countered."

In other words, as in 1914, the official trade union movement, and along with it the Socialist and Communist Parties, is asking the workers of all countries to surrender the little "peace and freedom" they have on the altar of the greeds and rivalries of their bosses. "Countering peril" is a little phrase that means fighting the new world war in which tens of millions of workers of all lands are going to kill and be killed, maim and be maimed, for the greater glory not of "peace and freedom" but of the profits and markets of their bosses!

Anti-Labor Laws What a monstrous irony it will be to allow these liars and fakers to put over this fraud once again! With the last shreds of "democracy" dissolving under the heel of iron dictatorship in France, Britain, and soon in the United States, the workers will be sent out to fight and die again for... democracy against dictatorship.

Worst of all would be for us in this country to have illusions about the fate of our "rights" as war draws closer and we are sucked into it. The stream of so-called "anti-alien bills" now before Congress already cast the black shadow of the regime of the concentration camp over the workers of the United States.

'A Decent Job at a Living Wage'--New York SWP Call

City Convention Discusses Trade Union Work of Party--New Committee Elected

Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party held its third semi-annual city convention May 13-14. Meeting at a time when the war danger is daily gaining momentum, the delegates were fully aware of the great responsibility which rested upon them.

The 36 delegates who attended the five sessions of the convention represented a cross-section of the membership of the Party in Local New York. Not only was every branch fully represented at each session of the convention but among the most active delegates were outstanding militants in the trade unions and unemployed organizations, including food workers, needle trades, painters, seamen, office workers and teachers.

A census taken of the delegates revealed that the delegates, with few exceptions, were either active trade unionists or members of the Unemployed and Project Workers' Union. The average age of the delegates was 27 1/2 years.

The convention heard and acted on reports covering organization, trade union work, unemployed work, education and propaganda, literature, defense, and youth. These reports, while pointing out the shortcomings of the Party in these fields, nevertheless indicated that considerable progress had been made since the last convention in mass organization work, literature sales, campaigns, propaganda work, Marxist School, membership, etc.

By far the major portion of the time and attention of the Convention was devoted to a thorough analysis of the Party's work in the trade unions and the unemployed fields and a careful consideration of projected plans for future activity.

The prime interest of the delegates throughout the Convention was the problem of how better to integrate the membership in the mass organizations of the workers.

One of the most important decisions of the Convention was the adoption of a special report which recommended the launching of an intensive campaign in New York City to meet the growing danger of the Coughlin menace. The Coughlin fascists have recently been making themselves increasingly obnoxious to the workers of New York by their attempts at spectacular sales of their anti-Semitic, labor-baiting rag, "Social Justice," and have even tried to break-up several street meetings of labor political organizations. The aim of the campaign is to take the first steps to arouse the anti-fascists of New York to the serious danger of the Coughlin brand of fascism.

Other outstanding decisions of the Convention were:

- 1) A drive to intensify and expand the Party's activity in the unemployed field.
2) A campaign in the trade unions and among workers generally for the adoption of the slogan "The Thirty Hour Week With No Reduction in Pay--The Workers' Answer to Unemployment."
3) Factory and trade union concentration work in specified fields and localities.
4) The publication of a series of cheap pamphlets on current issues facing the workers.

ANNOUNCEMENT HELP TO BUILD the Anti-Fascist Labor Guard. Attend the Social and Dance this Saturday Evening, May 20 at 51 East 7 St. Wrestling matches, entertainment, refreshments, dancing.

Father Coughlin--Agent Of Fascism In America

(Continued from Page 1)

Father Coughlin makes spurious appeals to the youth who face a blank future, and to the unemployed who are disillusioned with their prospects under democratic capitalism. He aims to enlist them in the ranks of his fascist hordes, to turn them loose against the labor movement as well as against the Jews and Negroes of this country.

Father Coughlin sugar-coats his real intentions with honeyed words about "peace" and "social justice." He even occasionally administers to Hitler and Mussolini a gentle slap on the wrist. But he is careful in the next breath to praise their actions.

While he is expending his efforts—and vast sums of money, the sources of which can only be guessed—on laying the propagandistic basis of fascism, he is also organizing the drilling of storm troops and creating the general staff and secret service for the fascist seizure of power.

Father Coughlin is the enemy of the worker, the poor farmer, the youth, the unemployed and all oppressed peoples. He seeks to set these natural friends at each other's throats so as to facilitate the task he has set for himself—or which his mentors, Hitler and Mussolini and our own Sixty Families and Girdlers and DuPonts, have set for him—the strangling of opposition to poverty, starvation wages, misery and despair.

Father Coughlin lies when he says he is opposed to fascism. And he lies when he pretends that by his fake anti-capitalism he can improve the lot of the unemployed, the youth, the workers, the poor farmers, the small businessman

low to Fight Fascism Fascism and the evils of decaying capitalism can be fought successfully in only one way—by a militant working class led by a revolutionary party. The fight for the dignity and equality of all races and all peoples, the fight for the improvement of the conditions of the unemployed, the youth, the worker, and the other forgotten men, a fight carried on by their own militant and united activity—these are the methods and the only methods by which fascism can be defeated. Father Coughlin, hiding behind his sanctimonious mask of lies, hypocrisy and deceit. Whoever believes him and advocates his policies is furthering the cause not of peace and justice but of race hatred, decadence, decay and fascism. The Socialist Workers Party, dedicated to the fight against the more blatant fascism of the German-American Bund, is dedicated to the fight against the Bund's twin, the insidious fascist propaganda of Father Coughlin.