

By Dwight Macdonald

SPARKS IN THE NEWS

Gold Is Where You Find It

An average of fifty people write in every day of the year to the Department of the Interior asking about the chances for settling down in the Mantanuska colony in Alaska. A lot of people also write in asking where they can get a divining-rod to locate buried treasure. Both these requests are in the same class, as far as the Department of the Interior is concerned. It has to write back that divining-rods don't work, and that the capitalist system doesn't either—or, at least, that there aren't any jobs in Alaska, or anywhere else.

Boss Bites Business Manager

In the July 5 issue of *The Guild Reporter*, mouthpiece of the American Newspaper Guild, there is a little tale of poetic justice that seems worth reprinting here:

DENVER—Retribution has caught up with C. A. Moore, business manager of the Denver Rocky Mountain News, and a Scripps-Howard executive for 19 years, who knows how to dish it out but can't take it.

Some months ago, Moore, deep in the security of a well-paying job, forced a sub-standard bulletin board agreement upon the Denver Guild. The agreement, which was entirely unilateral, covered commercial department employees. He refused to even discuss a contract which the Guild sought as a supplement to an exciting editorial agreement. He challenged the Guild's right to represent employees. "Loyalty" pledges, semi-secret and open anti-Guild propaganda appeared among employees. But an NLRB election gave the Guild an overwhelming majority, and bargaining started.

Moore stalled for months. Finally, under pressure, he posted the sub-standard agreement. It included a maximum of 10 weeks' dismissal indemnity for 10 or more years' of service.

Several weeks ago Moore was fired. The next day he came around and demanded dismissal indemnity. He was handed a check for 10 weeks' pay.

"I have been with Scripps-Howard almost 20 years," he protested. "I should get a half-year's salary."

"Nothing doing," he was told. "The bulletin board agreement calls for 10 weeks' pay as a maximum. The agreement was your baby."

Judge Manton Again

In this column several months ago I pointed out one episode in the career of Justice-at-a-

Price Martin Manton which seemed to have been overlooked by both Dewey and the press: the Judge's last-minute interjection of himself into a case involving the Associated Gas & Electric Co. I now see by the papers that a \$12,000 check made out by A.G.E. payable to Manton has turned up in the hearings on A.G.E. now taking place before the Securities & Exchange Commission.

The I.A.M.S.S.P.R.S.T.M.S.H.T.H.

"A quick check indicates that any man who belongs to the International Association of Marble Slate & Stone Polishers Rubbers & Sawyers Tile & Marble Setters Helpers & Terrazo Helpers can safely bet any other unionist that the IAMSSPRSTMSHTH has the longest name of any international union in America."—*The Industrial Worker*, May 13, 1939.

The Cream of the Jest

The New Deal's attack on the "economic royalists"—remember when F. D. R. used to talk in such terms?—has never been more than a bad joke. And the other day the royalists skimmed some very rich cream off this particular jest.

When it was discovered, in 1933, that J. P. Morgan and his partners had paid no income taxes in 1931 and 1932, the New Deal made the nation ring with demagogic outcries. With much pomp and circumstance, F. D. R. pushed through Congress a bill making it impossible to deduct capita losses in figuring income tax—the particular loophole Messers. Morgan & Co. had crawled through. With equally loud lamentations, Morgan & Co. paid up sums in back taxes.

They paid, but they also appealed. And a week or so ago, without any pomp and circumstance or public uproar whatsoever, buried deep in a routine press release from the Treasury Department, the following tax refunds for 1931 and 1932 were announced:

J. P. MORGAN	\$338,774.25
Thomas W. Lamont	138,783.45
R. C. Leffingwell	80,254.53
Junius S. Morgan	45,231.73
George Whitney	44,587.25

But the really rich cream of the jest—heavy, Grade A, 80 cents a quart—is that these gentlemen will get not only their money back but also interest on it at 6%, which is a lot more than they could have hoped for in any reasonably safe investment these days.

MEN AND WOMEN OF LABOR

OUT OF THE PAST

By EMANUEL GARRETT

JOE HILL (Executed Nov. 19, 1915)

Joe Hill wasn't the sort of man who left much of a record of his life—what he had done this year, where he had gone the next. All he left was a monument of song known and sung by every worker-militant. That and the memory of a courageous working-class fighter who stood his ground up to the very last moment. What is known of Joe Hill's life, John Dos Passos has put down in the magnificent portrait we reprint here:

A young Swede named Hilstrom went to sea, got himself calloused hands on sailing ships and tramps, learned English in the focastle of the steamers that make the run from Stockholm to Hull, dreamed the Swede's dream of the west;

when he got to America they gave him a job polishing cuspidors in a Bowery saloon.

He moved west to Chicago and worked in a machinshop.

He moved west and followed the harvest, hung around the employment agencies, paid out many a dollar for a job in a construction camp, walked out many a mile when the grub was too bum, or the boss too tough, or too many bugs in the bunkhouse;

read Marx and the I. W. W. Preamble and dreamed about forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

He was in California for the S. P. strike (Casey Jones, two locomotives, Casey Jones), used to play the concertina outside the bunkhouse door, after supper, evenings (Long-haired preachers come out every night), had a knack for setting rebel words to tunes (And the union makes us strong).

Along the coast in cookshacks flophouses jungles wobbles hoboes bindlestiffs began singing Joe Hill's songs. They sang 'em in the county jails of the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, in the bullpens in Montana and Arizona, sang 'em in Walla Walla—San Quentin and Leavenworth, forming the structure of the new society within the jails of the old.

At Bingham, Utah, Joe Hill organized the workers of the Utah Construction Company in the One Big Union, won a new wagescale, shorter hours, better grub. (The angel Moroni didn't like labororganizers any better than the Southern Pacific did.)

The angel Moroni moved the hearts of the Mormons to decide it was Joe shot a grocer named Morrison. The Swedish consul and President Wilson tried to get him a new trial but the angel Moroni moved the hearts of the supreme court of the State of Utah to sustain the verdict of guilty. He was in jail a year, went on making up songs. In November 1915 he was stood up against the wall in the jail yard in Salt Lake City.

"Don't mourn for me, organize," was the last word he sent out to the workingsliffs of

*From 1919 by John Dos Passos, pp. 421-422.

My DAY

THE UNAUTHORIZED DIARY OF MR. ROOSEVELT

Up early and had hearty breakfast in bed. Turned attention to firing W.P.A. workers. Hate to do this but think the million to be let out ought to be absorbed by private industry. Must get capital and labor together. Signed additional army and navy appropriations bill. War situation getting serious. Must keep War Referendum out of Congress—the people are behind us without such nonsense.



Had interesting chat with Tom Lamont over luncheon. Can't see eye to eye with the Tories on the Giants' chances of winning the pennant.

Saw Woodrum after lunch and discussed progress of W.P.A. firings. Seems there's trouble about my insistence on ending the prevailing wage. Minneapolis bad place. Received letter from crank asking us to raise relief allowances so he can buy milk for his children. Turned it over to F.B.I. Two more spies buying maps of U. S. in drugstore seized by F.B.I. Took cold shower and plunge in White House pool. Kept thinking of W.P.A. problem all during swim. Very heartening to see Workers Alliance trying to bring capital and labor together. Got out in time for hearty dinner. Stuffed squab excellent—must have cook prepare it more often.

Spent evening with friends, Eleanor recounting stirring trip to coal mines. Conversation drifted to W.P.A. strikes. Had midnight snack.

Trotsky Answers Moralists Critics of Marxism In "New International"

Leon Trotsky supplementing his now famous article, "Their Morals and Ours," with a critique of the critics. "The Moralists and the Sycophants Against Marxism," and an exhaustive review of the significance of the recent National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party are among the important features of the August issue of the *New Internationalist*, which is now off the press.

Trotsky's article takes up, among others, the views and criticisms of Boris Souvarine, of France, Victor Serge, Marcuse Pivert, Henri De Man of Belgium and others. The Editors review the various stages of development of the Fourth International movement in the United States, describing its evolution from a propaganda group to an organization, which, though as yet small, has sunk its roots among sections of the masses.

The August number is unusually varied in content, dealing with several problems of American economic and political life and also with international issues, among them Ireland, Argentina, Russia and France.

A graphic history of Bolshevism, as related to the leading cadres of the Bolshevik Revolution, will stir much interest in all political circles. A citation alone of the Table of Contents reveals the extraordinary variety and variety of the August number:

TABLE OF CONTENTS
The Editor's Comment: National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party
The Moralists and the Sycophants Against Marxism—by Leon Trotsky
The Socialist Crisis in France—by Rosa Luxemburg
The Struggle for National Supremacy, 1789-1848—by Geo. E. Novak

A Graphic History of Bolshevism
The Suicide of Ernst Toller—by Oscar Fischer
Reading from Right to Left—by Dwight Macdonald
Cotton Economy in Depression—by Jerry Fytko
Economic and Political Life in Argentina—by Pedro Milesi
The Congress of the P.S.O.P.—by Fauchos

Ten Years of the Russian Bulletin—by Editorial Board of the Russian Bulletin
Correspondence:
Irish Labor and the Bombings—by William John MacCausland

The readers of the *New Internationalist* are requested to obtain their copies immediately, since the supply is limited. Single copies are \$2.00; the subscription rate is \$2.00 per year. For information or copies of the magazine, address:
The *New Internationalist*, 116 University Place, New York City.

S.U.P. DEMANDS MARCH TO SHOW LABOR POWER

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 20—At the last regular meeting of the Headquarters branch of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, the membership instructed its officials to refuse to attend the Labor Day celebration on Treasure Island—the Frisco World's Fair—and instructed its delegates to demand that the San Francisco Labor Council, A.F.L. central body, rescind its decision to observe Labor Day on Treasure Island and instead to observe the tradition of marching up Market Street.

Always before Labor has demonstrated its power to the bosses by marching up Market Street.

Show of Strength Needed
"Now, by a narrow margin, the San Francisco Labor Council has decided to observe Labor Day on Treasure Island. Apparently this is for the benefit of businessmen and concessionaires who have hiked their prices to such an extent that a working stiff can hardly afford to take in the Fair more than once," declares today's issue of West Coast Sailors, the S.U.P. weekly. The militant labor paper concludes:

"This year, more than ever before, it is the duty of the labor movement to march up Market Street, stronger than ever, to show the bosses and their reactionary colleagues, the politicians, that the American labor movement will not tolerate the fascist action taken by Congress and the President in slashing W.P.A. rolls. This, as union labor well

knows, is only the first step in attacking union wages in private industry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTI-FASCIST Union Guard social has been postponed to August 5. See ad on page 2.

MODERN APARTMENT to sub-let. E. 4th St. Refrigerator, etc. Low rent. Communicate Socialist Appeal.

FURNISHED ROOM to rent—All privacy. Facing Bronx Park at Allerton Station. Inquire any day, 690 Allerton Ave., Bronx, Apt. 55W.

GARDEN BEER PARTY—Saturday, July 29. Games, entertainment, ping pong tournament. Downtown Labor Center, 51 E. 7th St.

CAMP SEVEN OAKS. Eaton-town, N. J. Tennis, swimming, ping-pong. Plumbing, \$2.50 per day. \$14 a week. Make reservations, please! Phone: Eatontown 515.

PICNIC AT PELHAM! Swim, sun, eat, play ball! Sunday, July 31, at Pelham Bay Park. East Side I.R.T. to Pelham Bay Station 11 A.M. Auspices Lower East Side. Subscription 15 cents.

The August issue of THE NEW INTERNATIONALIST is off the press, featuring an answer by Leon Trotsky to the "Renegades from Marxism." Order your copy immediately from the NEW INTERNATIONALIST, 116 University Place, N. Y. C.

NEGRO DEPARTMENT
Thanks very much W. B. of N. D. for your contribution. Thanks also to L. G. and M. B. of N. Y. Much equipment is still required—files, office furniture. Send all contributions to National Office, 116 University Place, New York, N. Y.

W.P.A. Strike In N. Y. Continues; Building Trades Unions Consider Tie-Up on All Gov. Financed Jobs

(Continued from Page 1)

clined to make a public ruling is taken to mean that they are conferring with President Roosevelt. Should either the Attorney General or the Federal W.P.A. administrator issue a ruling unfavorable to the skilled union workers, responsibility, it is taken, will be placed upon Roosevelt.

Strike Effective

Meanwhile, the thorough effectiveness of the strike in this city was confirmed by local W. P. A. administrator Col. Brethon Somervell. Referring to the growing cessation of deliveries of essential construction materials to struck W. P. A. projects by union teamsters, Col. Somervell told the press today that "if it becomes widespread, it will prove a serious handicap."

Angered by the growing lack of such essential materials as sand, rock and gravel, Col. Somervell stated, "Apparently there is some form of intimidation being used, naturally, or the vendors would not stop making deliveries. The public is getting awfully fed up with the attitude taken by the American Federation of Labor."

Labor Answers Somervell

Informed of the Colonel's remarks relating to "intimidation", Mr. Murray said: "It would appear that Mr. Somervell is either not aware of the facts of the situation, as regards the refusal of Local 282 of the Brotherhood of Teamsters to deliver materials to the W. P. A. jobs, or else he is deliberately trying to conceal these facts."

"It is important that the record should be kept straight. Accordingly, I call attention to the fact that the teamsters' action is simply in compliance with the terms of the agreement entered into between Local 282 and the material dealers in New York City, to which agreement the Building and Construction Trades Council is a party at the specific insistence of the material dealers of New York City."

"Local 282 is doing what every other union in the Building and Construction Trades Council has been doing in the present wholly just fight to prevent the abolition of the prevailing rate of pay."

"Section 7 of the Teamsters' agreement provides that 'where in the decision of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York a non-union condition exists on any job, the dealer making deliveries shall be notified of such condition. If not remedied within 24 hours, the Teamsters and Chauffeurs union reserves the right to stop deliveries to such jobs by withdrawing their men therefrom.'"

"I believe section 7 is clear," Mr. Murray continued. "The teamsters are complying with the terms of the agreement, the Building and Construction Trades Council is complying with the terms of the agreement and the material dealers are likewise holding this agreement sacred, as it should be held."

"Colonel Somervell, I know," Mr. Murray charged, "does not believe in holding agreements, as witness his attempt to break an agreement that Public Schools 27 and 64 would be 100 percent union. Section 7 of this agreement, which I have just cited, shows that the Colonel once again is going off the deep end."

Dismissals Continue

Up until Tuesday night 4,609 had been assigned to the W.P.A. from the Home Relief rolls to fill vacancies left by the wholesale dismissals of workers who came under the 18 month provision. The dismissal of workers under the 18 month rotation section continues at the rate of 2,500 a day. The W. P. A. roll for New York is now down to 116,979 and will be lowered to 103,000 by September 1.

John J. Brennan, secretary-treasurer of the Building Trades Council, on his return today from another of his many visits to the paralyzed North Beach Airport project stated that "The area around hangars 2, 4 and 6 is like a deserted village. If there hadn't been a work-stoppage at the airport," Brennan pointed out, "A good part of the skeletons of those hangars would now be well covered with brick."

Scabs See Crooked
Describing the manner in which brick is laid at Public

School 27, Nelson and Hicks Avenue in Brooklyn, Brennan said that "After a full day's work, during which eleven courses (Lines) of brick are laid, there is usually a two inch outward lean. Recently, when

a building inspector from the Board of Education inspected work done by the crew of scabs, which looked like the leaning Tower of Pisa, it had to be torn down altogether and started all over again."

WORKERS' FORUM

ORGANIZE UNSKILLED, WARNS MPLS. WORKER

Editor:

A short time ago I wrote you a letter in which I pointed out the dastardly attempts made by the Stalinist-controlled Workers Alliance to destroy the labor movement here and in particular the General Drivers Union 544 and its Federal Workers Section. Since that time we have had a visit of that cute and darling little prostitute of the Workers Alliance, its president, Lasser, who ended a telegram to Congress something like this:

"May God help you in your noble undertaking. Amen." Well, he didn't get very far here and left the next day by plane.

Press Praised Lasser

Before he left, however, he made a statement to the press that he would conduct a poll of his executive board on going back to work pending future negotiations with administration officials. The daily press at once picked this up and an editorial in a Minneapolis Daily thought that Mr. Lasser had a "very good and sensible idea there". Well, just what little David thought or said didn't make any difference because his fake organization was not running the strike here.

Organize the Unorganized

In my last letter I said that I believed that there is a remedy for the terrible conditions which today exists among the W.P.A. workers and particularly among the unskilled labor. The unskilled workers should be organized into militant labor organizations and Charters granted them by the A.F.L. and the C.I.O. Trade unionists must not be lulled into thinking that they can't be replaced, for right here in Minneapolis, for instance, we have a trade school known as the Dunwoody Industrial Institute which is turning out hundreds of mechanics every year in every trade of today.

Unskilled Aided Strike

I wish to impress on you that the major work in closing the Minneapolis projects was not done by the A.F.L. tradesmen, but by the unskilled W.P.A. workers when they were asked to do so by the Building Trades Unions.

I was employed during May on a military project near Minneapolis known as Fort Snelling where a hundred carpenters were employed. On June 2 the W.A. and the F.W.S. of Local 544 staged a "one day protest demonstration" here in Minneapolis and the Building Trades were asked to assist. I asked several carpenters if they would support us and they answered "that it did not concern them at all." But when the unskilled were asked by the Building Trades to come with them we responded 100 percent.

Now the least that the skilled workers who are organized can do is to invite us into the trade union movement and support us in our present struggle because if the Workers Alliance is to settle and negotiate our cause we are surely sunk.

For that reason I believe that unskilled W.P.A. workers and relief clients throughout the nation should pattern their organization along the lines of the Federal Workers Section of 544.

Danger Ahead

My motive for writing this article is to urge the Socialist Appeal to do all in its power to urge the unskilled workers to organize in militant labor unions and to impress upon the already organized unionists to recognize the fact that if they do not now give these unfortunate victims of a "raw deal" the help they are asking for, sooner or later organized skilled labor will be confronted with the impossible task of fighting capitalism, Fascism and ruthless law enforcement agencies alone.

The unskilled workers would then be standing on the sidelines telling unionists the same thing that the union carpenters at Fort Snelling told me: "This does not concern us!"

Yours,
T.M.A.

Minneapolis, July 18, 1939

ARRESTED ANTI-FASCIST TELLS HER STORY

Editor:

On Saturday, June 15, I was selling the pamphlet, "Father Coughlin, Fascist Demagogue" on 14th Street in front of Ohrbach's Department Store. On either side of me, some distance away, were Coughlinites selling "Social Justice." I had been selling for about 20 minutes, (incidentally, sales were very good), when a policeman told me to move on. I asked him where I could sell my pamphlets and he told me to go to the next block.

After selling for about five minutes on the corner of Fifth Ave. and University Place, another cop came over and told me to move on, lower my voice and that I couldn't shout anything but the name of the pamphlet. I told him that I had a fight to stay where I was, shout anything I liked to advertise the pamphlet, and that I was shouting no louder than the Coughlinites. The cop got tough, and started shoving me around, trying to get me to move on. By this time a crowd had gathered. A number of people in the crowd started arguments with the cop, telling him to leave me alone and go chase the Coughlinites for a change. Other cops appeared, dispersed the crowd and pushed me along.

Crowd Defends Her

I walked up the block and stationed myself in front of Grands. In five minutes the same routine started all over again. Again a crowd gathered, a crowd hostile to the police, except for one or two "patriots." One woman wanted to know why the cops picked on me when there were three Coughlinites on the same street. The cop told her to shut up or he'd pull her in too. Finally the cops gave up, the crowd left, and I was actually peacefully selling pamphlets again. Suddenly, I was grabbed by either arm and lifted bodily off the ground and across the street into a waiting Black Maria. I still have the mark of a bruise on my right arm.

Fascist Police Matron

I was taken to a jail on South Street where I spent eight hours trying to decide whether to sit on a mattress alive with bedbugs, or stand on the floor crawling with the biggest cockroaches I ever saw. The matron enlightened the dreary hours by informing me that Father Coughlin was her priest, and a good man, and I ought to be ashamed of myself.

My case came up in court the other day. The Judge dismissed the case, but instructed the cop not to answer questions put to him by my lawyer (from the American Labor Aid), which attempted to establish the pro-Coughlin attitude of the cop and the police force in general.

Series of Arrests

Immediately after leaving court, I learned that another comrade had just been arrested on Fourteenth Street while selling the anti-Coughlin pamphlet and that two Yipsels had been arrested in the Bronx for selling the Challenge of Youth. Furthermore, on the same day that I was arrested, another anti-Coughlin salesman was served with a summons.

It is obvious that this series of arrests is part of a campaign on the part of the Police Department to drive anti-fascist literature salesmen off the streets and give the Coughlinites a free hand.

These arrests, coming one after another in a period of less than two weeks, and without any Coughlinites being arrested, are the living refutation of Mayor LaGuardia's statement that his police are "fair."

Workers who value their civil liberties and don't want Fascism here, must join with the Socialist Workers Party in demanding an investigation into the pro-Coughlin activities of New York's cops.

Comradely yours,

RUTH WILNER.

New York City, July 27, 1939.

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Join the Socialist Workers Party