

# The Workers' Council

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## Editorials

### GOING, GOING, GONE!

One by one the various "liberties" about which so much is said in the school text-books as being a part of America's priceless heritage have by this time been discarded and decently buried. During the debate on the Immigration Bill, at present awaiting the President's signature, Congress helped to bury another, namely the right of asylum. Ever since the United States was founded it has been our proudest boast that every victim of religious or political persecution could find refuge in this country. Revolutionists were sure of a welcome in America and might even receive the interested attention of the "best people," that is, if unlike Gorky, their marriage relations were quite regular. To be sure the revolutions of the nineteenth century were nationalistic affairs and not class wars, and were not quite so disturbing in their implications.

We have now officially declared to the world that that policy is a part of the past. On an amendment introduced by Senator Johnson providing that the limitations on immigration should not apply to the victims of religious or political persecution, the Senate, following the example of the House, voted No by 60 to 15. Congress rose in its majesty and decided that no longer shall the United States be the "cesspool" of Europe. Gone are the "good old days" of before the war! Gone is another American "liberty."

When the boss shouts that there must be no "job control" it is, of course, implied that he is to be the exception to the rule.

## MAY DAY FESTIVITIES

Palmer no longer holds sway in his kingdom, but the spirit that he created lives on in our courts bullying and bluffing in the name of the law, breaking every safeguard that was ever invented to protect the unfortunate defendant from injustice. Truly, Mr. Palmer could ask for no more fitting tribute to his unholy memory than that which was rendered in the Tombs police court when the Comrades Lindgren, Jakira and Amter were brought before Judge Rosenblatt on a charge of criminal anarchy. In spite of the fact that the entire matter was so obviously trumped up to supply the capitalist press with material for its annual May Day scare that even the Judge refused to take them seriously, these three men were grabbed and manacled as soon as they left the court room by detectives who insisted upon their right to do so. Investigation showed that these "gentlemen" were acting with no other authority than an unsigned document, such as are often issued in large numbers to be used whenever illegal arrests are to be made.

The First of May in recent years has been the occasion for "red scares" of one kind or another. Bomb stories, the favorite method of the gentlemen who preserve law and order in this glorious country of ours, are becoming somewhat discredited. It is risky business to recall too forcibly to the public mind that in not a single case the astute detectives, who are so extremely well informed about the different Communist parties that they know the most secret data of every conference that was ever held, and have copies of every secret organ that was ever published, have been able to fasten the crimes that have been so vociferously attributed to the "Reds" upon one of their number. So they celebrated this May Day by springing the horrible story of a "secret organization" that was planning the undoing of the capitalist class of this, our United States. As if the existence of these secret organizations had not been an open secret to the police for over a year! A year ago, during the trial of the 20 C. L. P. men in Chicago, Detective "Red" Egan ostentatiously read the report of the secret convention that perfected the secret organization, in open court and commented upon the things that happened there, and upon the persons who attended that conference in tones that made no claim to secrecy. To bring out this information at this time, as if the gentlemen in the service of the Department of Justice had only just unearthed a deathly plot, proves the truth of what we have always maintained, that the raids and the attacks upon Communist organizations and individuals have become a part of American governmental policy, not because our rulers fear for the safety of the capitalist system, but because Mr. Gegan, and others of equally unsavory fame, love their jobs too well to allow the American public to forget their importance.

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## THOMAS COMES TO AMERICA

The treason of the Triple Alliance has cut deep into the heart of the British Labor movement. Friday, April the 15th, will long be remembered as BLACK FRIDAY for the English working class. For it is beyond doubt the blackest betrayal in labor history. The London Daily Herald, the labor organ, the day after the surrender declared that it was the heaviest defeat that has befallen the Labor movement within the memory of man. "The old machinery," it declared, "had failed. The Triple Alliance, the Trades Union Congress, the General Staff, have all failed to function. We must start afresh," it went on "and get a machine that will function. What we need is a new spirit."

The organs of the British Communists and the Shop Stewards all unite in demanding that THOMAS MUST GO. There is no doubt now that Thomas was the arch-traitor of them all; that Thomas very carefully prepared the trap for Hodges into which he fell and thereby furnished the opportunity which Thomas was looking for—the opportunity to throw the miners overboard and prevent the strike.

For months the Communist Press had been hammering away at the leadership of the British workers. For months they predicted that when the struggle became acute, the labor leaders would be sure to line up with the government, just as they did during the war. The virus of nationalism, it seems, is planted so deep in their blood, that they are incapable, any longer, of any sort of loyalty to the workers who keep them in office.

Thomas has suddenly taken fright at the volume of the demand that has risen throughout England that "Thomas must go!" And so he has decided to hasten his departure to America to which he was to come in June to attend the A. F. of L. convention at Denver.

He is coming a little sooner for the sake of his health. He needs a four weeks rest to get over the strain of the recent events. Think of all the energy expended in defeating the workers whom he was supposed to lead! And what a wonderfully appropriate place to go to! The time was when every dethroned king would flee to England for safety. What more fitting than that "liberty-loving" America offer a haven of refuge for leaders who have been discredited by one treason too many! Let us hope that the immigration authorities will place no obstacle in Thomas' way and that Mr. and Mrs. Gompers will be on hand to receive him and nurse him back to health. We can think of no better aid in the recuperation of Mr. Thomas than the climate of the A. F. of L. building in Washington and the company of the labor chiefs at the Denver Convention. There, surely, he will find that sympathetic attention and understanding he needs so much.

No doubt the English climate is not particularly favorable just now to Thomas, Hodges, Bevens, and Williams. Years of effort could not have done as much to awaken the British workers to the necessity of a complete housecleaning in their ranks as this supreme act of treason.

The Thomases must go. And while the British workers are engaged in their housecleaning, let the American workers turn to their Gomperses, Lewises, Hutchesons, Berrys and the rest of the outfit. It is

high time to rescue the American Labor movement for the workers who compose it. American workingmen! attend to your traitors!

## THE LIQUIDATION OF LABOR

Labor in the United States, in South America, in Europe and Asia is at present engaged in a struggle for existence. Taking advantage of the industrial depression, employers everywhere have organized concerted to slash wages, and so liquidate the gains which labor had been able to force from employers during the war.

Hardly an industry in the United States in which wages have not been cut from twenty to forty per cent. in the last year. The clothing workers were among the first to bear the brunt of this conflict. For five months the Amalgamated Clothing Workers have been engaged in one of the most bitterly disputed industrial struggle of recent years. Rarely has a union met with so determined and so well organized an attempt on the part of the masters to destroy it. Rarely have the courts been called upon so generously to come in and help crush the workers. Needless to remark their response has been equally generous.

New York City is at the present time witnessing a struggle which may become as long and as bitter a struggle as that of the Amalgamated. The shipping interests, in the effort to liquidate labor determined to cut the wages of the 112,000 men employed at the various ports along the Atlantic coast, 22,000 of whom are in New York City. The men promptly refused to accept the wage cut. Half-hearted negotiations conducted by the Government to prevent a strike failed. The result is a complete tie up of the entire coast. The men claim that the cut in wages claimed by the owners to amount to 15 per cent. is in reality a cut from thirty to sixty per cent. besides impairing working conditions. The seamen are thoroughly organized and are determined to keep the port of New York and the rest of the coast tied up until a satisfactory settlement is arrived at. The employers and the government recognize their power. They know that ships cannot move when the men fold their arms. They fear that in spite of the existing unemployment they will be unable to recruit enough scabs to man the ships and that a long strike would ruin "our" rapidly diminishing exports, they may therefore be expected to listen to "reason" namely, the power of the organized workers, and modify their original intentions considerably.

In another basic industry, the announcement of a wage reduction failed to result in any organized action. The dilatory tactics of the A. F. of L. in failing to organize the steel workers when the opportunity was ripe, as Foster suggested, left the workers of the steel industry unorganized and helpless virtual slaves of the steel masters. The result is that when Gary announced a wage reduction of twenty per cent. the workers were in no position to go out on strike and meekly accepted the reductions. This cut, which will bring wages down to the 1918 level, Gary says, must be made to reduce expenditures and is justifiable because of the decrease in the cost of living. Wages will thus brought down to the 1918 level although the cost of living is at least twenty per cent. higher than in 1918.

The United States Steel Corporation which is so