

labor eat out of our hand" by the process of unemployment and starvation. Do our statesmen at Washington and Wall Street care about the fact that even in the most prosperous year of our blessed prosperity 1918, 37 per cent of families in New York and Chicago are obliged to go without meat, 39.6 per cent cannot afford to buy eggs and 18.5 per cent must get along without fresh milk? Do they know or care that over half of the families investigated in these two imperial cities by the Health authorities, have incomes of less than \$900 per year, which is 50 per cent below the minimum subsistence level for a family of five? What's the result? Undernourishment for a large part of our population, undermined health, incapacity. Mr. Hoover is solicitous about the "underclad population" of Russia. How many children in this country have to go without shoes or sufficient clothing!

United States trade with Soviet Russia is an American not a Russian problem. For the Russian peasant and workman can, if forced to, get along without American machinery, American shoes or cotton. England, Canada, Sweden and other European countries can supply their pressing needs for many years to come—Russia may simply have to reduce her ambitious program of reconstruction, of electrification, mining or railway expansion in the next few years. The badly needed locomotives and agricultural machinery can be obtained in England, Germany, Italy. The enormous purchases which Soviet Russia would like to make will be postponed, and the burden for the loss of trade will fall on the American workers and farmers.

But the Capitalist class cannot "improve labor's morale" which translated means low wages and long hours, without ruining the home market. Poorly paid workmen and moneyless farmers make poor customers. Hence it is obliged to look for business abroad. This is what happened after the crisis of 1893. The volume of our foreign business rose till it reached 23 per cent of domestic trade in 1897; with the improvement of living conditions in the period 1897-1910, foreign trade declined to only 10 per cent in that year. In other words it is the experience of

American industrial development that exports must increase with a declining domestic demand. Russia therefore cannot be excluded from available markets for American trade. And it does not matter if Russia has "no export commodities today worth consideration." She has vast resources of mineral wealth, of forests, of agriculture. In 1917 the United States offered to advance Russia a credit of two billion dollars, according to a statement of Senator France in his debate with Senator King at Carnegie Hall on March 27th. What guarantees were required then? Certainly none more sound than the Soviet Government offers today.

In its proposal the Soviet Government expresses the hope that "the new American government will clearly see the great advantage for the two republics of the reestablishment of business relations and will consider the interests of both peoples which imperatively demand that the wall existing between them should be removed." In the opinion of some editors, Secretary Hughes didn't absolutely refuse to remove this wall; his note, they think, invites further pourparlers. (The statement of Superintendent Baker of the mint that Russian gold bearing the stamp of a foreign government will be accepted, would tend to confirm this opinion.) Perhaps the American Capitalist class, in its need for foreign trade, is preparing a scheme to trade with Soviet Russia without letting the world know that it is doing so. Perhaps it expects to sell to England and Germany for transshipment to Soviet Russia. But there, we believe, the Capitalist calculations will go wrong. For that's exactly what Soviet Russia will not have:—camouflaged relations or round about dealings. Soviet Russia will certainly refuse to patronize the American market through no matter what agents, without proper recognition being accorded to her.

American Labor must take a page from English experience. Lloyd George, the attorney for the English Capitalist Class, was forced to come to an agreement with Soviet Russia, not because the English Capitalists love the Russians more than the American or need their gold more, but because the

Working Class of England had put an ultimatum to Mr. George and was ready to back that ultimatum with the full power of their organizations. The American workingmen, dominated as they are by archaic and reactionary labor leaders, cannot hope to produce the slightest influence on Mr. Hughes or Mr. Hoover, cannot hope to better themselves until they determine to fight for what they demand, until the power they possess is concentrated, until they put on full steam ahead.

## Getting Organized

By J. LOUIS ENGDahl, *Secretary*

*Committee for the Third International, of the Socialist Party of the United States.*

The announcement of the organization of the "Committee for the Third International of the Socialist Party of the United States" has been received with enthusiasm. The reception it has been given is proof of its need and assurance that it has a big mission to perform.

No spokesman of our party has yet gone to Moscow to speak officially for the American Socialist Party. Yet the first and second congresses have come and gone, and the third will no doubt soon take place. Why is this so?

News comes that the Detroit, Michigan, and the Seattle, Washington, Central Labor Federations have voted to send delegates to the Congress of the Red International of Trade and Industrial Unions, that meets Sunday, July 1st, in Moscow, at the call of the Third International. How many more central labor bodies and individual unions are discussing this matter, at this hour, we do not know. Their number is growing daily. Surely the masses are moving.

It is the first task of the Committee on the Third International to let the membership and the sympathizers of the Socialist party know what the hopes and aspirations of the Committee are.

We therefore publish in full the original call for the organization of the committee. It is as follows:

### "FOR THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL.

"A group of comrades, active members of the Socialist Party, propose to organize within the party, and for work in the Party, a 'Committee for the Third International.' The undersigned comrades are of the opinion that the actual process of disintegration that our party is going through can be arrested only by the party's adopting as guidance for its action the principles and the spirit enunciated by the Third International.

"This involves unequivocal propaganda and work along the lines of uncompromising class struggle, the open and courageous stand for the Third International and for the Soviet Government of Russia.

"The 'Committee for the Third International' will act in the open, giving the names of the members, and will consider itself a legally and legitimately functioning body within the Socialist Party. Headquarters of the Committee will be at Chicago, Illinois, and Comrade J. Louis Engdahl is acting as secretary to the Committee.

"The membership of the committee will be scattered all over the states and will act through correspondence with the office of the Secretary, at 1400 N. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

"There will be a system of representatives, local and regional, of the Committee for the Third.

"The Committee adopts the following passage as its statement of affiliation:

"The Party shall cease all activities and attempts for the organization or support of the 'Fourth,' or any other new or old International, except 'The Third.' We favor affiliation without reservations, with the Third International. The announced '21 Articles of Affiliation' are not, in our opinion, a hindrance toward affiliation."

"We hold that all discussion as to the applicability in the United States at the present time of



The Socialist Party Rises to the Defense of Ex-Assemblyman Henry Jager