UnitedFruitCompanyVs.United Banana Workers

Costa Rica banana workers went longer "peasants" but true prole- labor. on strike. It was the biggest strike tariat. in Costa Rican history and was distinguished by several unique tional industrial unionism, particufeatures that together made enough larly clear in the Caribbean zone, of an impact on the hide of the where the great majority of work- direct support in the reactionaries joicing, rest or recreation. Whether United Fruit Company to make the ers are reduced to an identical class of the American Federation of La- Bill Green, President Roosevelt or strike New York Times news.

went out on an all-inclusive, in- long since wiped out, economically, and "Labor Day" is not as some of dustrial union basis. Cutters, load- all trace of national borders. ers, railroad and dock men stopped work, paralyzing the banana industry from the jungle to the water's telligent, militant workers' party. the contrary. Baptised with the

The government gun-men, called tated by economic reality, should May 1 was founded by the A. F. in at once by the many United Fruit be the linking, by means of indus- of L. itself, only later to be adopted boys holding public office, were un- trial unionism and politically, of by the European labor and Socialist able to make a dent in the strikeunable even to get near the armed, fighting workers, led by Communist Party members and backed by C. P. representatives in the Costa Rican legislature-men who, let us state with honest surprise, are making a consistent, intelligent fight against the United Fruit strangelhold.

International Solidarity in Strike

A second remarkable feature about this strike was its close contact with Nicaraguan workers, and its solid support by Jamaican Negro workers in the Atlantic zone, in spite of the race-hatred campaign carried on by the United Fruit and the smaller subsidiary planters. The Costa Rican government began deporting Nicaraguans shortly after the strike, accusing them of being "foreign trouble-makers", but at the root of this action was the fear of strike in Nicaragua tooalso, like Costa Rica, a vast estate of the United Fruit. The workers might discover-they are learning rapidly-that the precious national boundaries are economically fictitious-that the Nicaraguans are not only suffering imperialist exploitation like themselves, but largely in the same industries and under the yoke of the same companies!

An international strike would be new in Latin-Amerca --- and immensely dangerous to the United Fruit Company, whose huge empire includes most of Central America and the Caribbean zone, and spreads into South America, especially in Colombia and Venezuela. A huge industrial union embracing the fruit, sugar and coffee industry could paralyze not only the industry it- the government's order to re-hire self, but most of the railroad and water traffic in the Caribbean zone. Wolfe said that there cannot be water traffic in the Caribbean zone. Chief beneficiaries of Roosevelt's Cuben revolution. Hence the alarm of the United Fruit at the fraternizing of Nicaraguan and Costa Rican workers.

Furthermore, international industrial unionism, cutting through national borders, would wipe away the big talking point of petty-bourgeois demagogic agitators and governments-at present a strong and typical Latin American productfor these kuomintangists base their appeal on "anti-imperialist" super- over June 1933. Between June and nationalist "peasant and worker" July of this year however, (again in the same issue of the Workers or to the shambles in the Gran demagogy. The workers cutting an oversight on the part of Rich bananas might find out their true berg) there was a decrease in em- of the Americas" and no one will two strongest powers in the world class status-side by side with the railroad men and ship-workers, against native nationalist bourgeoisie and the United Fruit.

Strike Triumphs

So a third remarkable feature of the strike emerges: it was won. The workers got a raise, and virtual union recognition, since the strike was settled by a committee upon which were represented the the government-acting for United lar a day of the C. C. to the 50 tion is permissible for a revolution union, the Communist Party, and Fruit. This denouement contrasts dollars a month of the P.W.A. ist. Better to give up the opporsharply with the big United Fruit workers. strike in Colombia several years ago, when the government sent in troops to crack down on the more or less marooned banana cutters, brutality and terror. Many lives and 2,000,000 workers taken back patriotism. "As an American speakand broke the strike by means of were lost, and the struggle finally to industry at the magnificent ing to Americans", said Wolfe, "I degenerated into skirmish and saown estimate, a million dollars in fits rise anywhere from 200 to 600 the Rio Grande." The language of botage, United Fruit losing, at its fruit and property.

The Costa Rican C. P., one of the few Third International groups left in the world which actually pursues an intelligent trade-union policy, and maintains a realistic po- of a demagogue-even an "honest" litical fight, has emerged from the struggle greatly strengthened and advance. The very fact that Sinheathily growing. The workers have clair got so overwhelming a vote learned several lessons from this strike, which if followed up should make of it an enormously significant step forward in the history of American labor.

Lessons of Strike

First, the strength of the industrial union principle as applied to as it revolves about Sinclair, in agricultural workers tied up in the coming issues of the Militant. But same great colonial combine as in conclusion we want to repeat the marine workers, railroad men, etc. This should lead to a new and father: "Daddy, read your own

Second, the strength of internaand industial position in the employ bor. In the first place, the workers of a few great companies, who have The difference between May 1

led and supported by an active, in- sus an American holiday. Quite

Latin-American workers to North movement. Americans, for at that point a general strike in the banana industry, significance: and would reveal the 1 and Labor Day. true international nature of imperialism, and the necessity of international action, on a mass basis, —JEAN MENDEZ.

Hopkins and Relief

(Continued from Page 1)

They, and they alone, are to decide how much of the dwindling relief funds will be given to strikers. Have they been sufficiently starved, is their need sufficiently desperate, are they properly grateful and amenable to reason?

There are insufficient funds on hand to take care of one-tenth of this country's starving. Who believes, then, that the local authorities can accept, if they would, the additional burden of the striking

thousands? John E. Edgerton need fear nothing. The government troops will be at his disposal to crush the strikers. Funds, unlimited government funds, are his to break the strike. Relief for the strikers remains a promissory note, unsigned and undated.

Meanwhile, will the govenment continue to pour its loans into the coffers of manufacturers engaged in breaking strikes and locking out workers? It will.

The Weirton Company, arch-foe of organized labor, defiant of even generous administration, through loans and subsidies, through sums of money sufficient to feed every single striker in the textile indus-

Richberg Forgets

(Continued from Page 1)

ployment of 360,000 workers in the doubt that his two precipitate vis- without any overt governmental, manufacturing industries, and a its to Mexico together with many political, economic or military inlike decrease of 342,000 in the non- other attributes highly qualifies manufacturing industries. This him to deal with this subject. would bring the total increase of employment for private industry dio station and could not, in all from last June to July of this year to the grand total of about 1,600,000 workers. In addition to the above about 1,000,000 men are being em. posed on him a severe restriction in ployed on the various relief jobs the use of his language, but only lent. running anywhere from the one dol- in his language. No other restric-

The total applications for jobs at content of your speech to the dethe federal and state employment mands of the capitalist radio cenagencies ran well over 15 million. sors. Let us note at once that

Thus does this merry dance of Wolfe seized the occasion to cover figures continue. Between 1,500,000 himself with the mantle of a modest wage of about 15 dollars per do not feel it appropriate here to week. Real wages go down. Pro- make suggestions to those south of

Sinclair Plan

(Continued from Page 1)

demagogue is to disarm oneself in simply indicates that the issue of freeing Mooney in California is not the bugaboo that cowards in the labor movement have made it out

We shall return to the election campaign in California, particularly words to Sinclair junior to his clearer concept of Latin-American books."

FALL TERM OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SCHOOL TO OPEN OCTOBER 1st

The International Workers School will open at its new headquarters, 144 Second Avenue, on October 1st, with the following

- 2. Organization Principles Instructor to be Announced
- 3. History and Principles of the International
- State and RevolutionJack Weber 5. American HistoryFelix Morrow

6. Elementary Marxian Economics......Alfred Weaver You are urged to register now for whatever courses you are inteested in. Registrations are accepted daily at the office of the school. Each course is \$1.50 for the complete term. Further information may be obtained by telephoning Gramercy 5-5924.

LABOR DAY--1934

Set aside as a national holiday by Congress on June 28, 1894 in direct opposition to the revolutionary celebration of May 1, it found its most

our reformist friends would have us Third, the strength of a strike believe: a foreign celebration ver-The fourth necessary step, dic- blood of the Haymarket martyrs,

The burning creed of the class struggle and the illusory shibboor coffee or sugar, would become a leth of class peace-there lies the this year-that the New Deal of movement of enormous power and significant opposition between May

An Offering of Capitalism

With the full blessings of the employed. President of the United States, the full "harvest" of a year of toll. cause of unionism. and city authorities mass their had its martyrs.

Stalin Followers

(Contined from Page 3)

the fight against American imper-

Cuban revolution? Can the Com-

lyze their "mistakes")? For the

But perhaps we demand too much

Wolfe spoke from a capitalist ra-

probability, have used the forth-

tunity to speak than accomodate the

Ward is likewise the language of

her master. Nay more! It is ap-

parently the language of the Love-

stoneite movement Tomorrow it

will take on the flesh and blood of

Why was it not appropriate to

"make suggestions" to an audience

of thousands? Where is it more

appropriate? In the Workers Age

which reaches far fewer workers?

What do revolutionists want the

radio for if not to make suggestions

on the solution of their problems

with our neighbors to the South".

bourgeois demagogue looking for

petty bourgeois and working class

Moreover Roosevelt appears to be

achieving the very solution Wolfe

advocated. He granted "independ-

ence" to the Philippines; he abro-

gated the Platt amendment; he

withdrew marines from Haiti. A

revolutionist speaking over the ra-

d'o on the Latin American question

has a clear duty to expose the

hypocritical, demagogic, anti-work-

ing class nature of these maneuvers

of the world to deceive the Latin

American workers into thinking

that U. S. capitalism is friendly to

them with resulting trade advan-

votes could have made in its en

tirety daily.

Grande and everywhere else?

national chauvinism.

What are the perspectives of the

ialism!

Labor Day, the first Monday in | a sigh of relief when the demon- | capitalist onslaught on the working A few weeks ago seven thousand land-workers, for the most part no September, is not the holiday of strations are over and they still class. First the fire was trained remain in power.

We judge ourselves by what our enemies think and say of us. For the American working class Labor Day of 1934 is no day of re-J. P. Morgan like it or not, it will

Cotton Mills Close on Labor Day ing their places of drudgery in a nation-wide general strike.

Labor Day 1934 will find the working class rankling with resentment at the broken promises of the self-appointed "savior" in Washington. They have learned much in the NRA has been a Raw Deal of Company Unions, starvation wages and charity pittances for the un-

Labor Day 1934 finds the Ameriwith the benediction of the bosses can proletariat scarred from many who drive their "help" with the battles. Auto workers in Toledo, whip of slave conditions, with the truck drivers in Minneapolis, longmock culogies of the labor-hating shoremen in San Francisco, coal capitalist press on "the dignity of miners in Alabama, furniture labor", the working class is given workers in the "model" village of a day off-without pay-to enjoy Kohler have shed their blood in the

of property", when the hired press the announcement of the steel trust transformed into action, then there screams with rumors of "bomb of a reduction in wages, the her- will be real holidays-workers holplots", "assassinations" and breathes ald of the second big gun in the idays.

tages for it at the expense of its

imperialist rivals. But a worker

listening to Wolfe over the radio,

or reading his speech in the Work-

clusion in this respect: that Wolfe's

policy was not different from Roos-

evelt's! In this way Wolfe, the

Workers Age, which prints the

speech without comment and ap-

speak loudly and clearly, was si-

Wolfe told his audience that the

cooperation he spoke for was pos-

sible "only when the destinies of

great majority, the workers, farm-

ers, peasants and producers gener-

more radical declarations and Gov-

erican section of the Fourth Inter-

with these right wing Stalinists.

San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Aug. 16

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GEORGE MARLEN

(Author: "The Road")

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-JOHN COATES.

on Latin America or reading his speech in the Work-

icy although they have yet to ana- millions of our fellow workers.

traces of the Stalinists. We must influence the form of government or

look to the maestros of the Love- the internal affairs and economic

formances. Those who read Ward said abstractly without reference to

will turn with a sigh of anticipa- the necessity for fighting political

tion to the radio speech of Wolfe and military intervention in Cuba

on Latin America which is reported both in Cuba and the United States;

Age. Wolfe's subject was "Voice Chaco which is engineered by the

right language of the revolutionary which burst forth two years later,

movement. This circumstance im- Wolfe who had the opportunity to

ing class.

stoneite fold for more expert per- life of any other land". This is

on the unions and now a slashing attack on wages is being prepared.

Stronger and More Confident

But on the other hand, the workit was a year ago. Membership in country. be a day of struggle, of class war. unions has grown by leaps and Labor Day 1934 will resound the left-wing workers are for the ciation, along with nine other Marwith the echo of the marching feet first time challenging the corrupt ine Workers Unions, have been of nearly a million underpaid and bureaucracy of the A. F. of L. conducting one of the finest and over-exploited textile workers leav- Labor, slowly but surely, is begin- bravest militant labor strikes ever full stature.

palling hunger, the waste, the solidarity. anarchy, the insanity of this system-all of this we can say is more justified appearance of the militia

That is the significance of Labor Contrast this picture of super- They have faced and fought the Day 1934. It is not a day of celehypocrisy with May 1, when the clubs and bullets of the police, the bration-no holiday ever granted by powerful opposition from all labor capitalist class trembles in fear of | tear gas and bayonets of the Na-, the bosses can be that-but a day the "revolution", when the state tional Guard. Every strike has for the workers to reflect over the momentous happenings of the past armed minions to prevent "seizure | Labor Day 1934 is greeted with year. And when the reflections are

Onion Workers Battle Terror

working in the largest onion fields made. Mayor Rossi said, "I will relief. We have asked the U. S. in the country went out on strike. drive every radical and Communit Circuit Court to grant a certificate On numerous occasions prior to the out of San Francisco." A campaign of probable cause and to hear our parently agrees with it in toto, and munist party of Cuba be "restored the Lovestoneites as a movement walkout they had requested better of terror is now in full swing; to a Leninist basis (we assume that give objective assistance to the class working conditions and an increase first the Communist then the unions the Lovestoneites will not dare to enemy and help "the strongest pow- in wages. The employers refused will be crushed under its heelmaintain that the Cuban Stalinists er on the continent" to fasten its to grant any concessions and began that is real unions, willing to fight probable cause by the middle of have been pursuing a Leninist pol- bloody yoke around the necks of to systematically fire the most ac- for its members; these militant July, which has already passed. tive.

A committee representing the longshoremen's and general strike. Wolfe said that there cannot be Workers Age she is only a tyro in cal or military pressure by the receiving precipitated the strike. the subtle art of covering up the strongest power on this continent to

Demand 35 Cents an Hour

The strikers immediately organ. | years-but the end is inevitable. zed and applied for a charter from and children for 5 cents an hour.

production. The entire population gave the strikers sympathy and tervention or pressure whatsoever. On this remarkable development The strikers were evicted from which foreshadows the coming world war as the Balkan war of 1912 rehearsed the World War

> frantic and resorted to every means active in the labor movement. to smash the strike.

Then an epidemic of fires and each land are directly ruled by the bombings started. Strange to say, dom, and very little hopes for same ity of employed and unemployed only old, dilapidated barns were from the capitalist courts and poli- will become an even greater necesburned and no lives lost or serious ticians in public office. But I am sity in the face of the developing ally". True enough; but abstract property damage resulted. It was availing myself of every opportunenough to win the enthusiastic obvious that this was the work of ity to ask for my freedom just to support of Darrow who has joined the bosses in an attempt to smash prove to the workers what they can tasks before the revolutionary the Baptist church, or the Farmer the strike and arouse public opin- expect from the courts and other workers. The burning need of a Labor party which makes even ion against the workers.

Mayor's Home Bombed

ernor Olson himself. In short, These provocations culminated in Wolfe's formulations are correct in the bombing of Mayor Ott's home the abstract but are not filled by him with a revolutionary working a few days ago. Immediately, on. August Second marks my 32nd class content. And that is the in- O'Dell, president of the union, was anniversary of membership into the evitable mark of the opportunist. As for his patriotism and Ward's, an organization which tolerates the inquiry was Sheriff Mitchell attention to this monstrous framesuch people in its ranks and prints and six special deputies.

Suddenly, a crowd of some three their speeches and articles without even any comment is rendering the greatest service to the bourgeoisie crashed through the barracks' door daring exploitation of this case. I and the greatest harm to the workorder" by "surprise", captured O'Dell. They dragged him outside, One is no wiser after reading beat him up and threw him in a to the toiling masses of the entire Ward and Wolfe than before. The truck which was rapidly driven world, north and south of the Rio Lovestoneites will not solve the

problems of the Latin American Late that night O'Dell appeared and American revolutions. But few words about what we Ameri- they can muddle the thinking of a at his home suffering from numerous wounds. He had been taken number of sincere and revolutionwish to promote better relations ary workers. The quicker the Amacross the county line, terribly beaten and told to get out of the county on pain of death. He was national is launched and comes to ceeded to make a speech which any grips with these problems the soonwarned that his child would be killed and his home destroyed if he er will we be able to settle accounts dared return.

> The strikers immediately organized a defense group and prepared for the threatened return of the Vigilantes.

> O'Dell, in behalf of the union said, concerning a return of the Vigilantes. "Let them come. We'd give \$500 a head for anyone who gets away alive."

The workers are determined to defend their rights with their lives. The entire labor movement in this territory is up in arms and ready to support the onion strikers until

by the leading imperialist power QUESTIONS :: DISCUSSION the strike is won. —HARRY MILTON.

> ORDER A BUNDLE OF MILE-Communist League of America TANTS-ONE CENT PER COPY.

Tom Mooney Appeals to Labor for Assistance

AND FELLOW UNIONISTS:

As I write this letter San Francisco Bay District is tied up tighter than a knot from one of the greatest demonstrations of working ing class is stronger and more class solidarity ever manifested in militant on Labor Day 1934 than the whole history of this entire

For the past two months the Inbounds. In more than one industry ternational Longshoremen's Assoning to feel its power. Let the fought in this country. These bosses and their servants awe the same corrupt and all-powerful day when the workers rise to their forces that FRAMED and RAIL-ROADED me to this living hell for For when that day comes not a LIFE are the ones now trying to few shams will be punctured. And break this strike. They ordered outstanding among them, is the their murderous police to shoot sham of capitalism itself. The ris- these strikers down in cold blood ing profits concurrent with the without the least provocation-it lower standard of living for the was wanton, wilful murder. Then working class, the destruction of they had the State militia called in essentials of life alongside with ap- to help break this wonderful labor These acts of violence and the un-

firmly impressed in the minds of into the strike zone was like touchthousands today who were obliv- ing a match to a powder magazine. ious to the meaning of the present Like one man the entire labor moveset-up of things on Labor Day 1933. ment in a marvelous spontaneous working class gesture called a general strike; and this in spite of the leaders who were swept aside. Immediately upon the consummation the striking longshoremen and martime workers unions, the henchmen of these misleaders of labor, together with thugs from the American Legion, formed wrecking crews and destroyed all literature, furniture, records and other equipment iently absent until the wrecking McGuffey, O .- Two months ago Communists and threw them into preme Court, where we have three some 500 men, women and children prison. Over 600 arrests were

comments "while there exists any ers refused and threatened to fire history-making events that are tak- will be everlastingly cherished. intervention or any threat of in- all of them. This incident on top ing place in this region. Suffice to May we hope for your early reply? of Ward. After all, judging by the tervention, any economic or politiof the miserable wages they were say, that this is the beginning of the end of the old order of things. depths of a grateful heart, and send It may take months-maybe a few you warmest personal regards with

These militant workers, who have the A. F. of L. They demanded found themselves and are not afraid recognition of the union, an eight to fight for their rights will soon hour day and 35 cents an hour, realize that I too fought their fight They had been working 12 and 15 18 years ago, and lost. They will hours a day for 10 cents per hour soon be making the fight for my freedom. I want you to help me Up until a few days ago the bring this struggle forcefully and strike had succeeded in crippling dramatically before all workers and this winter when the effects of the their unions.

The entire country should be plastered with the enclosed Poster. their homes and relief refused. All should be allowed to pass without employment in the industrial cenkinds of provocations were attempt- putting the Mooney Case on its ters which are now glutted with ed and as many as 30 strikers were map. The only reason that I am millions of unemployed. in fail at one time in connection in prison is because of my militant, with activities attending the strike. loyal devotion to the cause of the will be raised by tens of thousands To no avail. The strikers beld workers, and the further fear, that of new voices. The organization heir ranks. The employers became if released I would again become of the unemployed will take on new

> In this present industrial upheaval I see real hopes or my freepublic officials doing the dirty work new Communist Party to lead the for capitalism.

I begin my nineteenth year in prisbrought to the county sheriff's bar. International Molders' Union. These racks for questioning. Present at dates should be exploited to signal up. Labor Day, in every city in the country should afford a wonhundred "Citizen Vigilantes" derful opportunity for a brave and and, taking the forces of "law and hope every one of my real friends, comrades and fellow unionists will not forget me on that day.

> The prices of these posters, 24x 38 inches, are reasonable. 15c for a single copy; 10 for \$1.00; 25 copies for \$2.00; 50 copies for \$3.50; 100 copies for \$6.00; 500 copies for \$27.50; 1,000 copies for \$50.00, pay-

MY DEAR FRIENDS, COMRADES able in advance to Tom Mooney Molders' Defense Committee, P. O. Box 1475x San Francisco, Califor-

> The posters can be used in connection with advertising Mooney Mass Protest meetings. They can be carried in parades on wooden frames, hung in union offices and halls and workers' headquarters, placed in friendly store windows and pasted up in places where great crowds pass. These banners should be carried in all Labor Day parades, and also May Day parades. In fact there are a thousand different very valuable uses to which they can be put.

We are desperately hard up for funds to carry on our fight on three fronts-in the capitalist courts, before the capitalist governors, and to the workers-where our real hopes are. We are enclosing a coin card with the hope that you will at least enclose a small coin to meet the expense of printing and mailing this to you; and if fortune smiles more kindly upon you now than it does on many millions of starving workers we will not be angry with you for disregarding the coin card and substituting a check, postal or express money order to enable us to prosecute this case all the more vigorously.

We shall be very happy to have an order from you for a large bundle of these posters to be used in of this foul treacherous betrayal of your city, now or at a later date. We are sending out 25,000 of these circular letters and posters, and that in itself is an item which, we hope you will consider when passing upon this urgent plea.

U. S. District Judge St. Sure not only refused to grant my writ of in a dozen radical workers' head- habeas corpus, but also refused to quarters. The police were conven- issue a certificate of probable cause, which would entitle us to appeal was finished, then they appeared on from his decision. He said we the scene and arrested every one as should seek relief in the State Sutimes sought and been denied said original application for a writ-habeas corpus. This court promised us a decision on the certificate of workers were the spark-plug in the

Your continued loyal and faithful assistance in this desperate un-Again I give thanks from the firm proletarian greetings. Fraternally and sincerely yours,

(Signed) TOM MOONEY

Food Prices Up (Continued from Page 1)

drought will be felt with full force. The thousands of small farmers and agricultural workers forced off No labor or working class event the land will be compelled to seek

> The demand for social insurance meaning and will necessitate a new orientation by the unions and unemployed organizations as the un-

These perspectives place great oncoming struggles is being reveal-On July 27, my 18th anniversary, ed by each new event. It brooks no

LECTURE THE U. S. S. R. AND JAPAN

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