

STAY AWAY

By ABRAM JAKIRA

LOOKING over the October issue of "The Painter and Decorator," the official organ of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, my attention was attracted by several timely notices bearing the same headline "STAY AWAY." Here are a few of them: "Stay Away from Niagara Falls," as work is very slack there and no hope for improved conditions in the near future. "Stay Away from Cleveland, Chicago and Tampa, Fla., is prominently displayed in a box on another page. "Stay away from Kelso and Longview, Wash.," owing to difficulties being encountered there. "Stay Away from Los Angeles," for work has fallen off fully 50 per cent in the past six months, with no indications of its becoming normal for some time to come.

Thus appeals to "Stay Away" come from trade unions from practically all parts of the country—from Florida to Washington and California. According to these appeals the worker of the unemployment stricken towns has one of the two ways to choose. He can either hire a Zeppelin and take a trip to Mars to try his luck there or he must remain quarantined in his home town and starve until his employers will again find it profitable for them to give him a job, until the "conditions will again become normal." But there is another way of solving the unemployment problem, the way proposed by the Workers Party: Abolish capitalism which causes unemployment by creating a Workers' and Farmers' Government and meanwhile make the bosses and their government pay the unemployed.

Any worker can readily see that there is no need for him to take a flying trip to Mars, neither is there any need for him to "Stay Away" or starve. The employers who make enormous profits out of the sweat of the workers in "normal" times and who alone have the right to hire and fire must be made to pay the unemployed to whom they cannot give work. It is the duty and within the power of the government to tax the industries for the purpose of maintaining the unemployed and thus keep them away from starvation.

Organized labor has the power to make the bosses and their government pay the unemployed. What is needed is the will to do it.