

The Assault on the Cheswick Miners

By A. Jakira

Drawings by Don Brown

OVER a month has passed since the state police of Pennsylvania staged its bloody attack upon the several thousand men, women and little children peacefully assembled at the Gajda Farm in Cheswick, Pa.

The State Cossacks, however, do not rest in peace. They are still hunting for some suitable man, preferably an Italian, whom they could frame up in connection with the death of

state trooper Downey, who was shot shortly after the meeting in Cheswick was dispersed on August 22nd.

Recently John Latanzie of Arnold, Pa., was arrested, taken to barracks of the police at Greensburgh, Pa., where he was questioned for a whole day and compelled to sign a statement on what he saw at the meeting. Steve Kurepa, a miner of Harwick, Pa., who is now under three thousand dollars bail in connection with the Cheswick affair, was recently rearrested late at night. put thru a third degree and was decorated with a black eye after he insisted that he knew nothing of the shooting. A few days later a woman of Cheswick was

arrested and held under five hundred dollars bail, which was later on released.

According to reports, the well known ex-Department of Justice agent and "expert on Communism" was engaged by the prosecution for a time to help in the frame up. The same Lennon was recently exposed as a participant in a daring blackmail case which also involves the Pittsburgh Chief of Police, Walsh, and alleged booze fighters of the city.

Meanwhile, the numerous stories as told by eye witnesses reveal more and more of the brutalities used by



RIGHT: *Two of the workers indicted in the Cheswick case.* LEFT: *Mrs. C. H. Hampson, of Harmersville, crippled by the Cossacks' clubs in Gajda Farm.*



the powers that be against the helpless workers.

One man, for instance, had his neck and arm broken by the clubs of the state troopers. He will remain a cripple for the rest of his life.

"The first time the state trooper hit me," tells another man, "he knocked me down and after he hit me lots. I did not feel then how much he gave me. I had sore legs and felt pains all over after I got up. He hit me behind, and I can not hear any more."

This miner spent over two weeks in the hospital and then was taken to jail for several days, and the charges against him dismissed. Indications are that he lost his hearing for the rest of his life. He was at the meeting for about 5 minutes and hardly had an opportunity to listen to what either the speakers or the troopers had to say.

"When the officer said 'Charge the ponies,'" according to the story of another eye witness, "the mob started to run. I did so too. I saw State Troopers knock them down on all sides—men, women and children. I picked myself up and just glanced from side to side. I saw a woman laying there as she yelled for help. A State Trooper came by and poked



Mrs. William Mitchell, dying from a trooper's beating.

her with a club and said, 'Get up,' and left her laying there. I also saw children laying there but do not know whether they were knocked down by the mob or the police. As the people were waiting for the busses and trucks and tried to go home, the troopers, any one they met there they just clubbed them there and told them to get home and they did not take no excuse of any kind, waiting for street car or trucks."

Twenty one men, mostly Italian miners, are awaiting trial as a result of these unwarranted, bestial assaults of the Pennsylvania Cossacks against a peaceful assemblage of workers. These men must be defended. The American Civil Liberties Union, the Anti-Fascist Alliance of Pittsburgh and several other organizations are cooperating with the International Labor Defense in order to provide these workers with the necessary legal aid and to prevent another Sacco and

Vanzetti frame-up. Other organizations and individuals should follow and help in this work. Quick action is necessary.

The Tour of James P. Cannon Against the Frame-Up System

As soon after the Third Annual Conference of International Labor Defense as possible it is planned to begin a coast-to-coast tour for the I. L. D. with James P. Cannon, national secretary, at the speaker. One of the main tasks of the Conference will be the organization of the campaign against the frame-up system and the fight against this vicious American anti-labor institution will be the subject of Comrade Cannon's tour. Preparations are already now being begun for this nation-wide tour which is assured of success by the interest already aroused, as well as the importance of the subject and the speaker's knowledge of it. All locals of I. L. D., as well as other labor organizations, that desire to secure dates for the tour of Comrade Cannon are advised to send in their requests to the national office so that further information and arrangements can be obtained. All requests should be sent to International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street, Room 402, New York City.

OLD DEFENSE PAMPHLETS WANTED

The ILD is undertaking to compile a complete record of labor persecutions in America and needs for this task copies of all defense pamphlets, magazines, books, leaflets and posters which have been issued in various cases in the past.

Readers of *The Labor Defender* who have any of this material in hand, are urgently requested to send copies to the national office, 80 East 11th St., Room 402, New York City.

AFTERMATH

SIDNEY, Australia (FP).—The various labor councils in Australia which set going a continuous agitation for the release of Sacco and Vanzetti, during which seamen and waterside workers held stop-work meetings and large demonstrations were witnessed in the leading Australian cities, have begun a movement to boycott American-made goods as a final protest.

News reports add that similar action has been taken by the labor movement in Finland and in some Scandinavian countries.

We are further informed that the Sacco-Vanzetti United Front Conference of Seattle voted to boycott all products manufactured in the state of Massachusetts.

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Lennon the Sleuth