

Mellon and the S. P. for the Coal and Iron Police

By A. JAKIRA.

The brutalities of the coal and iron police, better known as "Yellow Dogs" and of the state police of Pennsylvania, or the state "cossacks," are well known to every one interested in the labor movement. Both the "Yellow Dogs" and the state cossacks are powerful strikebreaking agencies in the hands of the large employers of labor. During the recent coal miners' strike thousands of workers, their wives and children, were victims of these bloody tools of the coal operators. The brutalities of the state cossacks at the well-known Cheswick Sacco-Vanzetti meeting on August 22nd, 1927 are beyond description.

The bloody activities of the coal and iron police again came into the limelight recently after a miner was murdered in cold blood by a group of "Yellow Dogs" in the employ of the notorious union-breaking Pittsburgh Coal Company near Imperial, Pennsylvania. The methods used by these murderers in this particular instance were of such a beastly nature that even the capitalist press

could not remain silent any longer. Ministers, labor misleaders, socialists, liberals now awoke to the fact that "something must be done in the matter."

Socialists in True Light.

The socialists, the liberals and the high salaried labor officials were compelled to come out in their true light as the agents of the bosses. Instead of organizing a campaign to arouse the workers for complete abolition of the state police and the "Yellow Dogs," these "representatives of labor" are making a feeble attempt to make the bills introduced by the Mellons and Governor Fisher in the state legislature more respectable and "acceptable" to the workers.

These misleaders of labor did not hesitate to come to an agreement with a bourgeois politician, Musmano by name, a tool of the Mellons and Governor Fisher, and had him introduce a bill in the state legislature "regulating" the coal and iron police. This bill met with the full approval of the socialists, the American Civil Liberties Union and a number of A. F. L. officials.

Musmano, however, as it was to be expected, soon "backed out" and left his "friends" flat.

Communists Expose Betrayals.

This attempt to betray the workers was exposed recently at a conference in Pittsburgh where this question was considered. This conference was called by the American Civil Liberties Union to which the officials of the socialist party, the United Mine Workers of America, the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, the Pittsburgh Central Labor Union and a limited number of local unions were invited.

The Communists served notice on the conference that any attempt to patch up the bills "regulating" the coal and iron police means nothing but an endorsement of this strikebreaking agency of the bosses to which no class-conscious worker can agree, that the question of state police cannot be separated from the coal and iron police as both play the same role as strikebreakers. Instead, the Communists put up the following demands: To organize a state-wide campaign for complete abolition of the "Yellow Dog" system, for complete abolition of the state police, against the use of gunmen, sheriffs, national guards, state militia, etc., in labor disputes, etc.

These demands were as it was to be expected from a conference of this kind, not accepted, despite

the energetic fight put up by the delegates representing the rank and file organizations.

The socialists and the representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union helped the high labor officials defeat the demands of the Communists. The rank and file delegates withdrew from the conference with a declaration that they could not possibly remain and be part to this open betrayal of the workers; that it makes no difference whether the miners' heads are broken by "Yellow Dogs" under \$2,000 bond as proposed by Governor Fisher or by "Yellow Dogs" under \$10,000 bonds as proposed by the socialists and A. F. L. officials; that it makes no difference whether the workers are to be murdered by "Yellow Dogs," citizens of Pennsylvania (as proposed by the socialists), or by "Yellow Dogs" coming from any other state of the country.

The workers must not allow themselves to be fooled by the proposals made by the socialists, American Civil Liberties Union and the A. F. L. officials to give their endorsement of the "Yellow Dog" system and must give their full-hearted support to the demands of the Communist Party for the complete abolition of the "Yellow Dog" system and the state police and for the right of the workers to organize, strike and picket without interference on the part of the government.