Bosses' Use of Government Against Labor Is Best Argument for the Labor Party

By JAY LOVESTONE

George Washington once said: "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force . . . Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."

The American workers and farmers have not heeded Washington's advice. They have let the government fall into the hands of the irresponsible, unscrupulous capitalists exploiting the city and rural masses. The close unity between the Stock Exchange and the White House is known to hundreds of thousands of workers and farmers. Thru their outright

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ownership of the dominant Parties the employing class owns and controls the Government body and soul.

Thus, in the 1922 Campaign, the Republican National, Senatorial, and Congressional Committees received openly over $100,000 from the following ten millionaire employers alone: A. B. Mellon, John D. Rockefeller, J. A. Patten, Wm. Wrigley Jr., Fred W. Allen, Fred Upham, S. R. Guggenheim, Herbert Hoover, Payne Whitney, and Otto Kahn.

The powerful exploiters know that they can't fight victoriously in the class struggle by shaking their aprons at the workers and farmers. They therefore make the fullest possible use of the splendidly organized and highly centralized machinery of oppression—the Government—against the producing masses.

Tomes could not adequately describe the recent numerous outrages perpetrated against the workers and farmers by the Government. We will cite only a few of the recent experiences and casualties.

1. Soaking the Farmers

When the farming masses of North Dakota rose in revolt against the Minneapolis grain gamblers and passed a Grain Grading Act with teeth in it, the Supreme Court, at the behest of the Chicago Board of Trade, declared the law unconstitutional and put the farmers at the mercy of the greedy capitalists.

Out of a total of $400,000,000 advanced by the War Finance Corporation for aiding the export of agricultural products, over three-fourths went to banking and financial institutions and live-stock loan companies and other exporters. Only $97,000,000 went to co-operative marketing organizations representing the farmers.

The Federal Reserve lent money to banks at 5½ per cent. These financiers proceeded to lend the money to farmers and stockmen at 8 to 10 per cent plus an unlimited commission bringing the interest up to more than 30 per cent in many cases.

While the Government was fixing the price of wheat to be received by the farmers producing it, the financiers were given a free hand to garner fabulous profits running into thousands of per cent in many cases. And this while hundreds of thousands of workers and farmers were bleeding and dying—in Flanders and France.

Besides, as a result of the policy of deflating the price of farm products brought about by the Federal Reserve Board and the advance in freight rates "50,000 people have already left the State of Montana."

A typical example of the havoc raised with the conditions of farmers by ths high railway freight rates ordained by the Government is seen in the fact that a farmer shipping a carload of potatoes from Lead, N. D., to Chicago has a gross income of only $1.50.

Smashing the Strikes

In the textile strike the Government issued 18 injunctions against the workers resisting a 20 per cent cut. Strikebreaking cost the State Government of Rhode Island $3,000 daily. Strikers were not permitted to talk to strikebreakers but the latter were permitted to heap the vilest abuse on the strikers. In Rhode Island alone the Government rushed in two troops of cavalry, five companies of coast artillery, one machine gun company—all in all a total of sixhundred National Guardsmen to crush the strikers.

In the Mine Strike the operators broke an agreement to which the Government itself was a party. While the operators were profiteering most flagrantly, Harding spoke of their "Fine revelation of business conscience," and called upon the Governors of the coal mining states to employ soldiers to break the strike.

Scores of injunctions, hundreds of evictions and arrests, were the order of the day as far as the Government's part in the Mine Strike was concerned.

In the Railway Shopmen's strike 92 railroads violated the Transportation Act and decisions of the Railroad Labor Board in 104 cases, but not a single capitalist was arrested. Instead, hundreds of workers who were striking against wages allowing them a food budget less than that allowed the prisoners in the Cook County jail were thrown into prison. Ninety-one injunctions were issued against the strikers. Within ten days after the strike was declared, troops were cn the march against the workers in no less than six states. And when Chairman McChord of the Interstate Commerce Commission protested against the dangerous conditions into which the railroads had fallen because of strikebreakers' repair work, Strikebreaker General Daugherty issued his infamous injunction against the workers.

Conclusion

Too long have the workers clung to the notion that Government has nothing to do with industry.

The history of the United States is a history of the development of a highly centralized powerful Government. And the history of the struggles of the workers and farmers in this country is a history of untiring activity by the Government in behalf of the exploiting class and against the working masses.