

New Open Shop Menace to Labor

By JAY LOVESTONE

During these May Days the country is buzzing with gossip. Presidential timber is being advertised far and wide. We are approaching the 1924 Elections.

What are the issues of the coming campaign? What significance does the National Election have to the workers?

Tho Harding has not yet served three years there is already official talk about his being chosen to succeed himself. This campaign talk is rather early for "normal" times. But the capitalists find it necessary to begin early for they have a big and difficult job ahead of them.

The last great class conflicts in America were not fought to a decision. Tho the workers succeeded in repelling the attack of their bosses on their unions and living conditions the capitalist front was not shattered.

Since the Open Shop Drive was brought to a halt by the heroic resistance of the workers and the prosperity spurt the powerful employers have been preparing. Tariff, taxation, foreign affairs, prohibition, railroads and agricultural relief will fill acres of space in our metropolitan and rural press during the campaign.

The outstanding issue of the campaign will be the question of relationship between workers and employers. This issue will come to a head in the Open Shop question. That is why the giant industrial magnates, and their lieutenants controlling the Republican and Democratic Parties, are talking and acting so early.

Daugherty For the Open Shop

On March 19, in a letter to the Florida State Bar Association, the strikebreaker Daugherty openly announced that he would strain every ounce of his energy to have the Republican Party committed to the Open Shop in the coming campaign. Daugherty has indefatigable energy in rendering service to the employing class. The Attorney General put in his plea for law enforcement against the militant workers and for prohibition enforcement. In the every day parlance of the workers this means that the Republican Party will openly encourage and aggressively support the new attack on the workers. The enforcement of prohibition is, of course, a joke. The Administration will continue to employ the enforcement of prohibition as a subterfuge for building up a strong party machine thru patronage and a potential strike breaking army thru the appointment of thousands of Federal marshalls who can be deputized for strike duty.

"Hell-and-Maria" Dawes Thunders

"Hell-and-Maria" Major General Dawes, formerly a lieutenant of Mark Hanna, the apostolic father of American imperialism, who forced McKinley on the nation in 1896, is also making himself heard. This Chicago banker speaks for mighty steel, railroad, rubber, metal, automobile, telephone, oil, textile, cement, meat packing, and fertilizer interests employing over 4,000,000 workers. As early as last December this sworn foe of the workers in an address before the Chicago Chamber of Commerce hurled defiance at the laboring masses. Thus, bellowed

"Hell-and-Maria": "The politicians these days are afraid of the labor unions, many of which are headed by criminals. We need men who are not afraid of mobs—who are ready to fight!" And recently this expert in profanity went even further. He openly dedicated himself to having the Republican Party take the leadership in the new Open Shop drive.

When Daugherty and Dawes talk they mean business. Daugherty and Dawes are not mere talkers. They are doers. Their lives present a record replete with the blackest of crimes against the workers. How this policy is applied in industry was well illustrated by Samuel M. Vulcain, President of the gigantic Baldwin Locomotive Works, in an address delivered before the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce on April 12th. Said Mr. Vulcain:

I have got 25,000 men working for me in a little foundry back east. I'd like to see any union labor leader start something amongst them. Why, when the railroad strike was starting, a bunch of labor delegates came around to the plant. In twenty minutes I had every damned one of them in jail. I was told I had no right to put them in jail. I said: "But they are in jail, aren't they? Now go and get them out." You have got to act quick when you are facing a crisis.

This is what the workers in every industry will face if the Dawes and Daughertys have their way.

Workers Are Facing Crisis.

The workers are facing a crisis. The Government is preparing to fight the battle of the bosses against the workers more aggressively than ever before. They will be crushed by the capitalist juggernaut run by the Government.

It is obvious that the workers can take a leaf out of the book of their employers. The bosses know how to fight. The employers are amalgamating their giant corporations into super-corporations in order to crush the workers more easily. They are utilizing fully the political power they have thru their ownership and control of the Government.

Unless the workers do likewise the capitalists will simply ride rough shod over them. In order to save themselves from this capitalist tyranny the workers must amalgamate their crippled craft unions into mighty, fighting industrial unions. The workers together with the working farmers must organize themselves politically. They must organize a powerful independent party that will actively fight for the city and rural working masses on the political field