

"The idea becomes power when it penetrates the masses."
—Karl Marx.

SPECIAL MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT
THE DAILY WORKER

SECOND SECTION
This magazine supplement will appear every Saturday in The Daily Worker.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1925 290

Trade Union Developments in the Asiatic and Pacific Countries

By A. LOZOVSKY.

THE fight for the unity of the international trade union movement and the creation of a united International embracing the workers of all Continents, has up to recently encountered a great obstacle in the arrogance of the European labor aristocracy. Until the war Europe possessed the financial, industrial and political hegemony of the world—a fact which found expression in the leading bodies of the socialist and trade union movement, upon which the Internationals were based and which were entirely limited to Europe.

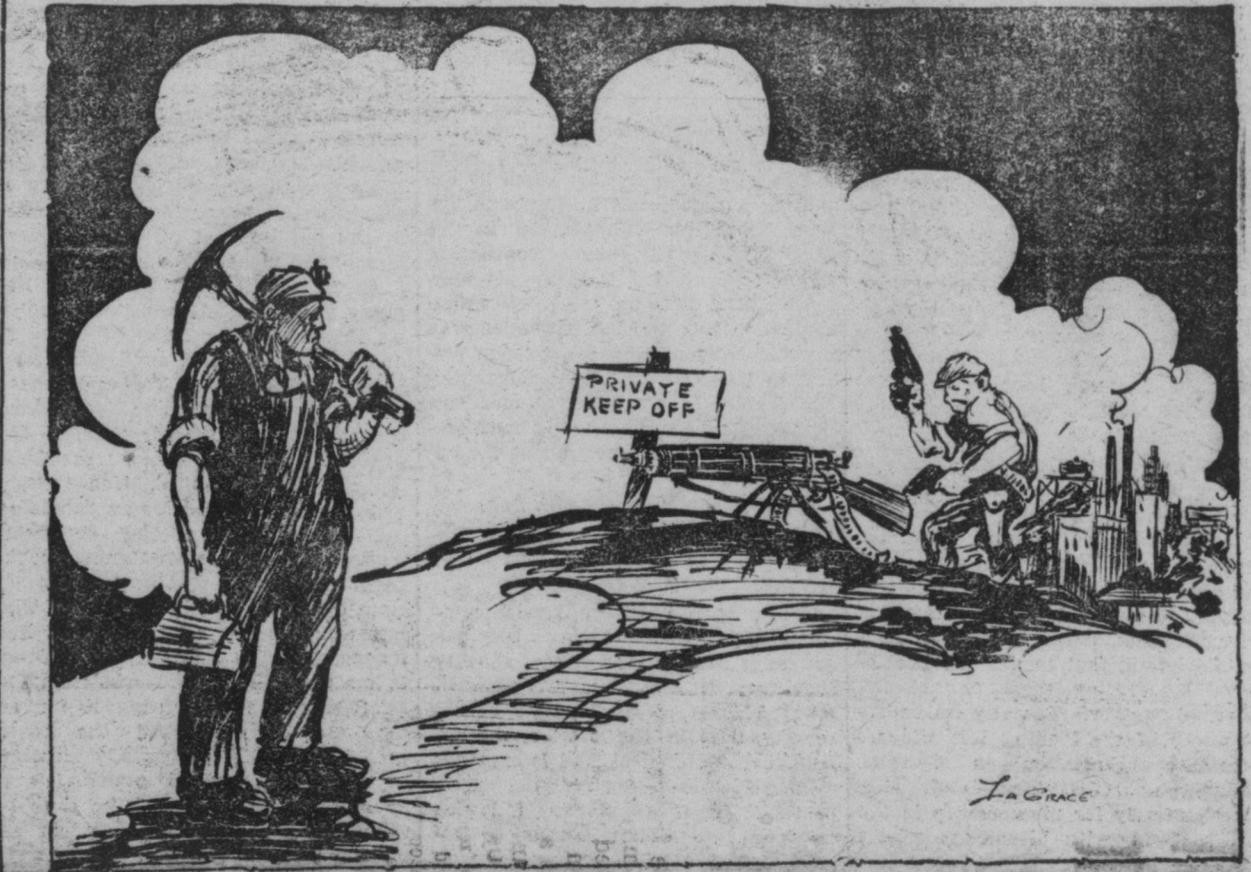
These remnants of pre-war psychology dominate up to the present the minds of the leaders of the reformist labor movement who do not like going beyond the confines of Europe. They intentionally refuse to understand that enormous upheaval which has come about as a result of the war, of the October revolution and the rise of real world Internationals, the Communist International and the Red International of Labor Unions. It is only recently that international reformism has designed to cast a glance at the East, because the labor movement of the East is assuming a revolutionary character and disturbing the plans of international reformism.

In the meantime the labor movement is growing in every corner of the earth, and a number of international tasks are arising, which can only be solved by common international action. In connection with this a whole number of projects have recently arisen which are highly characteristic of the attitude of the labor movement of the new countries. Of such projects there are at present three:

1. The prominent Japanese reformist Bundshi Susuki (a Japanese bourgeois paper describes him as "Our Japanese Gompers") spoke at the Conference of the International Labor Office of the unions of India regarding the office, which is affiliated to the League of Nations, with representatives of vening of a Pan-Asiatic Labor Conference. According to the proposals of Susuki, this Labor Conference is to be participated in by representatives of the trade unions of Japan, China, Persia, Siam, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, the Philippines, India, Egypt, Palestine, and Turkey.

2. The Trade Union Council of New South Wales has taken up the initiative is calling a conference of the trade unions of the Pacific countries for the 1st of May 1926. As the Australian "Daily Standard" reports, the secretary of the trade union council, Garden, (he took part in the II. Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions) has sent an invitation to the labor organizations of China, Japan, Canada, the Philippines, the Hawaii Islands, Singapore, India, South Africa and the United States, in which invitation it is pointed out that this conference is called to "discuss the questions of the Pacific."

3. The same Australian newspaper, the "Daily Standard", reports that the Executive Committee of the Australian Labor Party has decided to arrange a conference to be held in Honolulu in November 1926, of the representatives of the countries of the Pacific. To this conference there are to be invited representatives of those trade union workers and kindred (1) organizations of all countries of the Pacific who stand for the maintenance of peace.



ANTHRACITE MINER: "SO THIS IS PEACE!"

All these three projects deserve serious attention, while it must be remarked that the character of the three undertakings, in spite of the scantiness of the news, is quite clear.

With regard to Susuki's proposal, this means nothing else than the creation of an Asiatic International, and in this respect the Japanese reformist is following the footsteps of Gompers, who for his own purposes organized the Pan-American Federation of Labor, and of the leader of the English railway workers, Cramp, who a few months ago put forward the idea of the creation of a Continental International.

Bundshi Susuki at his interview with the representative of the "Japan Advertiser" said nothing regarding a colored International. He only intimated that he had decided to convene an Asiatic Labor Conference when the "labor unrest in China has subsided", and its aim is "to raise the level of the Asiatic workers, so that they will be better prepared to take part in the work of the International Labor Office." But as a matter of fact, Susuki is not arranging his projected Asiatic Conference for this purpose. The "Daily Standard" adds the following words of Susuki regarding this Conference:

"We representatives of the colored workers have decided to create a colored International as a counterpoise to the white International."

Susuki's projects therefore, go much further than the revival of the internationalism of the International Labor Office: he wants to have his own Asiatic International. What will be the political tendency of his International?

Judging from the fact that it was Bundshi Susuki who instigated the splitting of the trade unions of Japan and the expulsion of the revolutionary elements from the Japanese Labor Federation, we see that for him it is a question of setting up the new reformist International as speedily as possible in order to fight against the revolutionary labor movement of Asia. It is not for nothing that Susuki is

making preparations to convene this conference immediately the "labor unrest in China has subsided." When it is further remembered that Susuki entirely forgets the existence of the trade unions of the Soviet Union which is also bordered by the Pacific Ocean, then the color of this Pan-Asiatic project will not differ from the child of Gompers: the Pan-American Labor Federation.

The project of the Australian Labor Party for the convening of a congress at Honolulu of "all trade union workers" and kindred organizations of the countries of the Pacific has a somewhat different but likewise unique character. Here is to be seen an open attempt to convene a pacifist congress, for otherwise there would be no sense in giving expression to such a vague term as "kindred organizations." The congress has as its object to bring together the supporters of peace in the countries of the Pacific, and as there are many supporters of peace among the bourgeoisie who have set up all sorts of pacifist societies for this purpose, then it is obvious that these "kindred organizations" will have a place at the congress. It is apparently, therefore, a question of a Pacific edition of the International Peace Conference at the Hague in December 1922, where there took place a fraternizing of international reformism and of bourgeois pacifism. But we are still awaiting particulars regarding this project.

The third project—the convocation of a congress of trade unions of the countries of the Pacific in Sydney—seems to us to deserve the most attention. To this congress only trade union organizations will be invited, and these will discuss the common questions of the countries of the Pacific. Although we possess no detailed information regarding the agenda of this approaching congress or regarding the proposals to be submitted to it, we consider such a beginning as very useful. Such a congress could serve as a stage in the struggle for the united international and for the

unity of the international trade union movement, if the conveners invite the trade unions of all countries of the Pacific and realize that the questions of the countries of the Pacific not only concern the workers of this or that country, but also the whole of the international labor movement.

No matter what attitude is adopted to these projects, one thing is clear: they all mean a new era in the development of the international labor movement. The fight of the Communist International and the Red International of Labor Unions against European narrowness, for the unity of the labor movement of the whole world corresponds with the requirements which have become historically ripe. There will be still much confusion, deviations and many attempts to create continental and colored internationals, but all this must not mislead us. All these attempts, which express the growth of the enterprise labor movement of Asia, and also of Australia and the countries of the Pacific, to overcome their own narrowness and to weld themselves into a united, fighting trade union International based on the class struggle.

WATCH

for the next issue of the

Saturday Magazine

Section of the **Daily Worker**

It will be something new, surprising, pleasing—

Subscribe Now

and get it at your home for Sunday reading.