

N. Y. Laundry Strike Brings 15,000 Out

By MAX SHACHTMAN

Fifteen Thousand Laundry Workers went out on strike in New York City, Feb. 10, at the call of the United Laundry Workers.

The workers demand recognition of the union, closed shop, better working conditions, reduction of hours from 66 to 44, an increase of wages of 15 per cent over the miserable \$15 for men and \$8 for girls, and the abolition of the vicious system of contracts between the employer and the individual worker.

The Employers' Association refused to arbitrate the matter even when the State Labor Board intervened. Instead, they began to use violence against the pickets. On Delancey Street, a Mr. Rosenberg, owner of the New Delancey Street Laundry, Charles Tucker, a professional gangster with a record, and two others were arrested for threatening the organizer of the union with a loaded gun. They were held by the court for attempt to kill. In Harlem, two men were blackjacked by gangsters, two of whom were held for assault in the 104th St. Station.

Undaunted by these assaults, the strikers are going ahead with their strike and are appealing to all housewives to support them by patronizing only union laundries. Already, 18 laundries have settled with the union.

A significant incident of the strike is the refusal of H. Waldman, owner of the Famous Laundry, and a prominent member of the Socialist Party, to settle with the union. He employs 25 men, all of whom are out. With characteristic miserliness he has informed the Settlement Committee that he will settle only on condition that the demands be moderated, and that if the strike is eventually lost, then the contract with the union is to be voided! This, the committee refused to sanction.

The union will continue the strike against the slave-drivers, whether members of capitalist parties or of "Socialist" parties. And the New York Call, which has been filling its columns with discussion on whether business is compatible with Socialism, will undoubtedly remark on the case of Mr. Waldman, who does not seem to mix his business with his "Socialism" very much.

Timber Barons Insist