

# THE YOUNG WORKER

An Organ of the Militant Young Workers

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**THE YOUNG WORKER**  
Stands For  
Unionizing the Youth!  
Equal Pay for Equal Work for  
Young and Old!  
A 6-Hour Day, 5-Day Week for  
Young Workers!  
Abolition of Child Labor!  
A Fight Against Capitalist  
Militarism!  
A Fight Against the Boss Class!  
The Workers' Republic!

## WAT DANGERS TO YOUTH ON JULY 4

### Show Up Conditions In Bunte's

#### SPEED UP AND PIECE PAYMENT FOR THE YOUNG

##### Boys and Girls Slaving in Sweets' Shop

By BARNEY MASS.

Picture 1,200 young girls and boys, slaving in cold and hot rooms, straining every muscle in their bodies, dipping, moulding, cutting and wrapping chocolates. This depicts the daily eight and one-half hours of toil, which the young workers in the Bunte Candy Co. go thru.

Standing on hard cement floors, with the temperature registering 50 degrees, wrapped in sweaters and shawls, young girls and boys, some as young as 12 and 13 years, dip, cut, mould and perform other operations on the candy. Where the cocoa and other chemicals are cooked to be prepared for confectionaries, the rooms are chokingly hot and we find girls, wearing only ones, perspiration rolling down their faces, laboring for a daily salary of \$16, \$17 or \$18 a week. The boys, with clothsapped around their heads, to keep the hair from falling into their eyes, operate various machines, demanding their alertness and attention.

##### \$20 For Young Workers

For heavy labor, the boys receive salaries ranging from \$20 to \$23 per week. The efficiency system cannot be surpassed. Each sort of candies goes thru a number of operations, and the young workers are forced to keep up a pace, meeting with the speed of the machines. While asking one girl, working in the cough-drop department if it was possible to receive any injury, she replied, no, but at the same time narrowly escaped getting her fingers entangled in a machine performing four to five operations simultaneously.

##### Machine Replacing Slaves

This machine replaces 25 to 30 workers. It loads, seals the cough-drops in each box. It was recently introduced and is only two months old, but the company is well satisfied with it. Another new machine is one compressing the candy to the shape desired. Before, this operation was done by a boy sitting on top of a paddle with the candy placed in between. This old method is still in existence. The old way, is very inconvenient and wasteful, as the boy has to judge the time, sometimes causing the candy to be squeezed too tightly. The new policy hurries production and replaces help in periods of business revival. Another new machine is one cutting and wrapping caramels. A woman standing feeds the fudge into the machine, under a high nervous tension. While going thru the plant I noticed that she was replaced by another, within two hours time. More and more modern machinery is being introduced, causing the discharge of many, many workers, harder and speedier work. In some departments, the noise of the machine is deafening.

##### The Cocoa Packing Room

At the present time only one-half of the force is working. Sitting under two tubes, from which the cocoa steadily pours, a young girl and boy, apparently of the ages of 12 and 13, (Continued on page 2.)

#### Millions Sweated From Kids

##### YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS OF BUNTE'S FACTORY— LINE UP FOR A FIGHT

In another column you see exposed the conditions under which you are working. The Young Worker, in writing this story up, is not interested in it from the point of view of sensationalism. It is interested because it is the paper of the Young Workers League of America, an organization of young workers, boys and girls like yourself, who are united to better their conditions wherever they work.

Do you know what our program is? We want you to join the Young Workers League of America and fight in the factory for the following demands.

1. Abolition of the speed-up and piece work systems.
2. No night work or overtime work.
3. A six hour day and five day week for all young workers.
4. A fully paid weeks annual vacation.

You can get these demands if you unite into one body and present your program to the bosses who are making hundreds of thousands of dollars while you have hardly enough to live on. While you sweat at your bench, your bosses are in Palm Beach, enjoying the best there is in life.

You can win if you get together. Join up with the Young Workers League of America and fight side by side with the other young workers of this country for a decent share in life!

Get in touch with us immediately at 1113 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

Your fight is our fight!

#### HALF A MILLION IS BUNTE PROFIT AS YOUTH SLAVE

By JOHN HARVEY.

Thruout the United States, Canada, England, South America and the far-east, the Bunte chocolates and confections are piling up profits. The young girls and boys who are making the candies, on the other hand are being driven at a terrific pace, under what is commonly known as the efficiency system. The net sales of these HIGH QUALITY CONFECTIONERY increased within 2 years, six times as much. In 1912 the net sales were \$1,229,305 as compared with the sales of 1923 of \$6,284,264.

##### Pass Half Million Mark

The profits for the year of 1923 were over the half million mark. (\$547,994). The earning on the preferred stock per share for the same year was 50.51 percent; on the common stock per share \$4.13. The accumulative surplus at the end of 1923 was \$1,893,906.

In Chicago alone candy sales amount to more than \$50,000,000 annual. How much did the boys and girls receive who made possible by their hard labor and meager pay such enormous profits for the candy bosses? NOT EVEN A LIVING WAGE!

While the directors of the Bunte Brothers are realizing more and more profits without contributing any labor, the wages of the young workers (in relation to the cost of living) have been steadily decreasing.

The Chicago Tribune in its book "Chicago the Market Center" speaks

#### EDUCATION GOES WHEN CHILDREN ARE EXPLOITED

SAN LEANDRO, Calif.—That owners of asparagus beds in various parts of the state are exploiting children is the charge made by W. O. Davies, supervisor principal of schools in this city.

As early as March, he asserts, the exodus of children begins. The laws are invaded in some instances by movable part-time schools, which the parents transport with them. These are useless, according to Davies, because there is no supervision and no assurance that the children will attend.

Davies' charges are supplemented by a report of Dr. C. R. Blake, county health officer, who has investigated child labor in the asparagus beds of Sacramento valley.

#### \$500 for Reply as to Why Coolidge Should be U. S. President

SAN FRANCISCO.—How California schools are being used for reactionary propaganda is evidenced by several recent prize essay contests offered to school children by newspapers. The Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle both offered prizes for essays on the federal constitution, based on Randolph Leigh's "The Citadel of Freedom," a book full of mis-statements of fact and enthusiastically indorsed by the anti-labor Better America Federation. Now the California Republican offers a \$500 scholarship to a high school student for an essay on "Why Coolidge Should be Returned to the White House." At that, it is worth \$500 to find out why!

#### Alleged Progressive Votes Against Child Labor in the Senate

WASHINGTON.—Among the senators who voted against the proposition to keep the age limit "for future regulation" of child labor at 18, and to make it, instead, affect only those child laborers of 16 years and under, was the would-be progressive senator from Idaho, William Ewert Borah. Another of this progressive species, Reed, of Missouri, attacked the resolution because "it is supported by revolutionists who despise the constitution and regard its precepts as inferior to the teachings of the Communist International."

Gray Silver, of the Farm Bureau Federation, the organization of the rich farmers, also opposed the resolution.

##### "NOTHING TOO GOOD FOR 'EM."

ALBANY, N. Y.—Another and more thorough senate investigation of the U. S. veterans' bureau is demanded by delegates to the New York state convention, Disabled American Veterans of the World War, meeting in Albany. Graft, red tape and too much politics are charges laid against the bureau.

of the Bunte factory and its fourteen acres of land and 450,000 square feet of floor space, and tells how it is set in beautiful surroundings. However, like much of the company propaganda about the plant, it is very careful to omit mention of the revolting conditions inside of the plant with which the young workers are confronted but speaks only of the "beautiful exterior" which they see only early in the morning and late at night.

Build your shop nuclei!

#### \$20,000,000 IS DIVIDENDS FROM SWEATED SLAVES

##### Six-Year-Olds Toil 15 Hours Each Day

By LELAND OLDS.

Exploitation of entire families including women and little children under a contract labor system has enabled the American beet sugar trust to pile up huge profits for the year 1923-24. Reports of four leading companies controlling over 60 per cent of the output show profits totalling about \$20,000,000, an increase of nearly 100 per cent compared with the previous year.

The extent to which a high protective tariff served to enrich the profiteer rather than to protect American labor appears in the great profit margin which averaged \$1.99 a bag or nearly 2 cents a pound on the 10,057,504 bags of sugar produced by the four companies. These profits meant a return to owners of common stock running as high as \$18.25 on a \$25 share in the case of the leading corporation. This represented a return of 73 per cent on their investment.

Detailed figures showing total profit, profit per bag and profit per share of common stock after all deductions for depreciation, taxes, interest and preferred dividends are given in the following table:

Amalgamated Sugar	2,688,86	\$1.82	2.62
Gt. Westn. Sug.	12,004,304	2.02	18.10
Amer. Bt. Sugar	1515,972	2.04	8.10
Utah-Idaho Sug.	3,758,159	1.94	1.32
Total	\$19,067,296	\$1.99	.....

The nature of the exploitation which makes such profits possible is revealed in a report of the Children's bureau of the department of labor. The bureau found that the labor of mothers with little children and of boys and girls as young as 6 years is a regular thing in the beet fields of Michigan and Colorado. In fact, the possibility of turning tiny children into wage earners is one of the inducements offered by contractors in recruiting the slaves of the sugar trust. In both Colorado and Michigan one-fourth of the child workers were under 10, another fourth were between 10 and 12 years old and only one-fifth in Michigan and a little over one-sixth in Colorado had passed the age of 14 years.

One-third of the entire number reported working under pressure for 11 hours or more per day and one-eighth reported a day of from 12 to 15 hours. These long hours were continued in some instances for weeks at a stretch. 10 and 12 years old and only one-fifth of the living quarters provided for this contract labor were found to be wretched. More than half the families lived in shacks built of tar paper or corrugated iron, or in roughly boarded shanties frequently with but one door and one window. Many of these were not weatherproof. Overcrowding was common with almost half of the contract workers living 3 or more persons to a room. Testimony before the senate committee showed the Mexican families were imported for this work in order to keep wage standards down.

#### ST. PAUL CONVENTION DECLARES FOR 3 Y. W. L. PLATFORM DEMANDS

(Special to "The Young Worker")

ST. PAUL.—Among the numerous resolutions adopted at the Farmer-Labor party convention just concluded here were three of the demands presented by the Young Workers League of America. The convention declared its opposition to child labor and demanded legislation to insure its abolition. It declared also for opposition to imperialist wars. The league resolution on workers' control of capitalist armed forces was adopted in the following form:

The convention "declared that the working class must establish its control over the militia and other armed forces by organizing committees of working class members and of such bodies, in co-operation with the trade unions and other workers' organizations to prevent the armed forces from being used by the capitalist class against the workers."

#### PLOT TO SELL U. S. ANOTHER WAR REVEALED

##### Pershing Spills Beans in West Point Talk

WEST POINT, N. Y.—A conspiracy of the government, the army, and militarist propaganda societies to check the growing peace agitation and sell the next war to the people has come to light in the graduation address of General John L. Pershing at the United States Military academy, West Point, describing plans for a monster war demonstration next fall.

Huge Manoeuvres Planned. "This fall we are to have preliminary defense tests . . . (which) will involve every community, every hamlet and every officer and soldier of the army, national guard and reserve, as well as every patriotic citizen, all of whom will be expected to participate, if only to report their presence at some designated place," according to Pershing.

God and Mars Together. "Religion and patriotism go hand in hand in a righteous war, and our nation will never engage in any other. To wage an aggressive war for greed or gain is un-Christian, but to refuse to serve in defense of our homes and our institutions is equally un-Christian."

That the militarist plans are also to give the open shoppers security against labor organization is suggested by Pershing's reference to the aim of "national stability." He said, "It is in reality a great citizen movement, than which there is none more important in its far-reaching effects upon good citizenship and national stability."

Join with the Y. W. L.!

Selfishness and Hatred know frontiers; Brotherhood knows them not.—Lamartine.

Send in those subs now!

#### CRY OF PATRIOTISM USED TO HIDE WAR PREPARATIONS FOR GAINING OF GREATER PROFITS

By MAX SHACHTMAN.

WHAT is behind all the speeches being made this July 4th?

Who is backing up the huge celebrations and demonstrations on this one hundred and forty-eighth anniversary of the American declaration of independence?

What is going on in America while the youth of this country is listening with wide open mouth to the speeches of the capitalist politicians and their kept orators?

While the bunkshooters are shouting about the declaration of independence and the revolutionary war for freedom of 1776, the most monstrous and detailed plans for the taking away of what little freedom the workers of this country have left, and for the manufacture of another huge war, are being made by the capitalists and financiers of this country!

Unless the workers of this country, especially the young workers who suffer first, are awakened to the situation in this country today, they will soon find themselves in the midst of a war which will be much bigger than the last world war, which will bring more death and destruction than any other war since the beginning of history.

Do you remember how the last war began? Do you remember how the munitions trust was exposed in congress as being behind the Army and Navy League which was agitating for preparedness?

Do you remember that altho Wilson was re-elected as president on a "He Kept Us Out of War" platform, he asked congress to declare war on Germany within a few days after he resumed his office?

Do you remember how every attempt at giving the workers of this country a chance to state their opinions on entering the war, was frustrated by the militarists?

And finally, do you recall the tens of thousands of proud young men, who went across and never came back; and their buddies who did come back with broken bodies and torn limbs, while the millionaire "dollar a year" men sat at home making millions in profits wrung out of the workers, or else grafted other millions out of government bureau?

The last war came swiftly and found the workers unprepared. Will the next war find them equally unprepared?

Is America preparing for war? Is the groundwork being laid for another slaughter of the young workers for the profit of the Morgan-Rockefeller-Gary gang?

The answer is given in almost every important news event of the day. Under the false pretense of preparing for "the defense of the country" millions are being spent on the army and navy. Congress rushes thru a \$330,000,000 appropriation for the army; a few days later \$150,000,000 is arranged for the navy.

The most strenuous efforts are being made to fill up the quotas for the citizen's military training camps. The youth of the country is being made ready to form the army for the next war.

Why all these preparations? The beautiful posters which advertise the army, navy, marines, and training camps speak of the opportunity for the young fellow to develop his body and mind, to see the world and all the rest of the piffle. These slogans are being used to drag in the trusting youth so that American imperialists can have ready-made cannon fodder in the time of their need. But behind it all? General Pershing told the truth when he said that the C. M. T. C. are a good means for training the youth of the nation to be ready in the event of a war.

Why a war? Only a few weeks ago, congress passed the Japanese exclusion law. Feeling is running high in Japan today. Suppose an irresponsible Japanese should harm an American subject in Japan. Immediately the hue and cry would be raised in this country. Our honor must be defended! Our flag must be apologized to! Other "patriotic" slogans will be raised. And before we realize what has happened American battleships will be under full steam for Japan and a first class war will have been begun.

Behind it all are the rich investments in the Philippines, the rich and unemployed coal and iron ore mines of China, the oil lands of Persia and Roumania, the possibilities for investments of surplus capital in South America. Everyone is after these juicy profit-bringers. The race is between the United States, England and France on the European continent and between the United States, England and Japan in the Pacific and on the Asian continent. Each seeks for the complete domination of the territory involved and its riches. Each is preparing for the day when the under cover struggle will blaze forth into the open light of the day, when the armies and navies of the countries racing for supremacy will come into open conflict.

The rush of the imperialists for the control of everything in sight is shown plainly in the way in which Morgan has openly taken over the recent Republican convention. His personal agent, Charles G. Dawes, head of the Morgan concern, the Central Trust Company of Chicago, has been nominated for the vice-presidency on the Republican ticket.

What can the young and adult workers do in the face of this situation? What shall be their answer to the insidious plans of the imperialists to drag us into another war for profit?

The Young Workers League, together with the Workers Party, the organized communists of this country demand the immediate cessation of military preparations in the army, navy or air fleet.

We demand the control of the state militia and the national guard by the organized workers, so that these bodies shall not be used against the workers.

We call upon the young workers who are the first to fall in capitalist war to unite with the Young Workers League in order that we may combine our efforts in the fight against the war of the boss class, in order that we may successfully carry on our own war, the war of the workers against the bosses.

On this July 4th, while capitalist orators and newspapers are doing their best to poison the minds of the youth with "patriotism" which will lead them to accept blindly another boss war, let us unite in the struggle for real independence, for real freedom, the victory of the workers against their oppressors!