

Passaic Fights On!

By Max Shachtman

WITH a solidarity that comes of determination, courage and a fine spirit of sacrifice the thousands of textile workers in Passaic fight on. After the first week or two of the struggle fools, and many wise men, said that it could not last very much longer. But now almost a score of weeks has gone by and the dust continues to cover the machines unmolested by any worker. The mills are at standstill, the ranks of the workers are unbroken, and their fine spirit of solidarity is unchanged.

The strike is more than most large strikes a great event. It is inspiring to see these thousands of workers, often divided by barriers of language, creed, and opinion, being fused into a big and powerful mass, like a huge many-bodied giant of labor and determination. A new feeling of hope and courage comes to him who feels the petty jealousies and selfishness of men burned away in the heat of the struggle and the new and finer spirit of fraternity and self-sacrifice and solidarity growing out of the mass. To see all that is truly great and noble in the working class—in the oppressed and illiterate, the miserable



Weisbord behind bars.



Arresting Nancy Sandowsky

ones, the cripples—to feel these qualities surging grandly through masses who sing and fight for victory!

What is fine in the struggle of the worker has its black counterpart. In fights with their workers, all the low cunning, the brutality and viciousness, the cupidity and flint in the ruling class stands out in sharp contrast. In Passaic this can be seen by any one. Making millions of dollars in profit out of the labor of the mill hands, they have cut wages to the point where it meant either starvation or fight. And when the desperate workers chose fight, they were met with savage attacks by the police, with tear bombs and the fire hose; working class children who paraded in behalf of their parents were

not spared by the clubs of the maintainers of law and order; arrests and beatings have been the order of the day since the strike began, and cynical prostitutes on the legal benches have handed down decisions to uphold the actions of capitalist tools.

Yet, not all the lies and vituperation and beatings and arrests and injunctions have broken the picket lines, or induced any workers to return to the machines. Not all the opposition has prevented a growing spirit of solidarity from spreading to every section of the labor movement in this country and echoing in lands across the ocean. Admiration for their courage and aid to their fight has resulted, and the spirit grows stronger every day.



Arresting Strikers—A Daily Occurrence.

Albert Weisbord, the leader and organizer of the strike, faces many charges in the frame-up which has been launched against him. And those who know the bosses of New Jersey know that they will stop at nothing to railroad him to a long term in the penitentiary. Jack Rubenstein, who led one picket line after another, and was sent to the hospital by police beatings, must also face trial on idiotic charges. Clarence Miller, another of the young militants, and scores of other strikers and organizers are on the list for prison terms. Men and women who sympathized with and spoke for the strikers have also been seized and held under prohibitive bail.

The Passaic strikers do not stand



ON THE JOB AT PASSAIC
*Joseph R. Brodsky, attorney
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alone. They are fighting a battle for all American workers and this is being realized more and more. That is why some half a million workers were represented at the *Support the Passaic Strike Conference* which took place a short while ago. Labor responded to the call for support. With the enthusiasm of the strike itself, the struggle was endorsed. Plans for an even larger campaign for relief than before were proposed and adopted. Cooperation with the united defense committee, in which International Labor Defense, the American Civil Liberties Union, the relief committee and other bodies have joined, was pledged by

the nearly 200 delegates.

This conference is another victory for Passaic. All workers are being drawn into this great fight. And, in addition, Passaic is becoming a symbol of unity for the workers, especially in the sorely-divided textile industry. With the initiative of Passaic, thousands of textile workers throughout the East sent delegates to New York for a conference to work out the means for unifying the too great number of unions which compete with each other for the allegiance of the mill workers. And a big step towards unity and the building of a mighty textile workers' union was taken there.

Passaic is making history for American labor. It is fighting battles that other workers have fought less well and will fight still better. It is blazing a landmark for bigger and more virile and successful struggles for American workers. Against Passaic have united all the natural enemies of the working class. Against Passaic have been used all the forces at the command of a bestial capitalist class. That is why more and more workers must come to the aid of Passaic, for their fight is the fight of all workers.

In the hands of International Labor Defense has been placed the task of organizing the agitation and protest for the Passaic defense, of defending Weisbord and his comrades. A big movement for this work is developing. It must become so strong that it will stop the imprisonment of the strike leaders. It must keep them free to lead this great struggle. It must help Passaic to fight on!



"Law and Order" in Action.