

LABOR UNITY

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PRIOR 5 CENTS

MINERS, NO SURRENDER TO OPERATORS

ON the eve of the expiration of the Jacksonville agreement, all reports indicate that a struggle between the miners and the operators is inevitable.

The attempts to settle the differences by negotiation and to arrive at a new agreement have failed. The operators are determined to reduce the standard of living of the organized miners to the low level of the defenseless slaves in the unorganized fields. The United Mine Workers is faced with the choice of either surrendering to the attack of the operators, or to fight with its back against the wall.

Miners, there can be but one answer. **NO SURRENDER. STRIKE AGAINST WAGE CUTS. FIGHT FOR YOUR UNION.**

Life of Union at Stake.

In the present struggle much more than your standard of living is involved. The very existence of your union as a weapon for your defense against the bosses is at stake. The miners remember too well the widespread violations of the Jacksonville agreement. In every district the operators openly flouted the "sacred" agreement. And in the last few months, in the negotiations and outside of the conferences, the operators have shown that they are determined to weaken your union and to reduce it to impotence. Unless you prove that your United Mine Workers of America, the union that was built with immeasurable sacrifices of two generations of miners, IS STILL CAPABLE OF FIGHTING and can bring the operators to terms, you will be practically defenseless against their ever increasing insolence. **YOU MUST FIGHT TO SAVE YOUR UNION.**

In this grave crisis the LABOR UNITY would do an ill service to the miners if it were to fail to present the situation in all its seriousness and as it really is. Your enemy knows too well every weak point in your defense. The miners must therefore take account of the real situation, to do everything in their power and to force the leaders to take the necessary measures to assure victory for the Union and the miners.

Organize Non-union Fields

The greatest menace to the strike lies in the unorganized fields. The unorganized miners have proven that they are eager to join the ranks of the union. They can and they must be organized. But as yet there is not the slightest indication of an organizing drive among them. **DEMAND OF YOUR LEADERS** that a most energetic campaign be immediately initiated in the unorganized fields.

Persistent rumors that there will be separate district agreements have not been denied by John L. Lewis. Separate district agreements would mean defeat for the miners. The betrayal of the coke miners in 1922 is still remembered. They joined the strike and saved it from defeat, but when the settlement was made they were left in a lurch. A policy of separate district agreements will cause distrust among the unorganized miners and will make it impossible to bring them



The Answer

into the strike. **DEMAND A DEFINITE DECLARATION AGAINST SEPARATE DISTRICT AGREEMENTS.**

Demand an aggressive strike policy that will arouse the fighting spirit of the union membership and will inspire confidence among the unorganized miners. Demand that your leaders keep you informed and keep in constant contact with the membership. Demand the reinstatement of Alex Howat, Powers Haggood and the other progressives, who were expelled because they advocated a fighting policy for the union.

Beware of all schemes of co-operation with the mine management, of "efficiency" schemes, that mean harder toil for less pay.

Every miner must be awakened to the danger of the present situation. Every mining center must resound with the slogans:

**FIGHT FOR THE UNION!
NO WAGE CUT!
ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED MINERS!
NO SEPARATE DISTRICT AGREEMENTS!**

LEWIS AUTHORIZES SEPARATE AGREEMENTS

As we go to press news dispatches relate that the Polley Committee has authorized not only district agreements, but also separate agreements with individual operators.

Reactionaries of Needle Trades in Dire Straits

AFTER almost four months' warfare against the New York locals of the ladies garment and fur workers' unions, the reactionary officials of the two Internationals in alliance with the bosses, the Tammany police and the capitalist press, find themselves with few followers among the workers. Their terroristic union-smashing campaign has not succeeded. The registration in their "unions" is a flop. Their vociferous statements in the obliging capitalist papers, that the left wing leadership elected by the rank and file is "played out" fool no one any more. The attempts of the bosses to force the workers to desert their unions and to join the Sigman and Schachtman so-called locals were countered with determined strikes and picketing. Finally, the two Joint Boards formed a Joint Unity Committee, to give single, unified direction to the struggle against the "triple alliance"—the bosses, the union-betraying officialdom, and the police.

Frame-Up Against Gold

Even the frame-up against Ben Gold, the fighting leader of the fur workers, brought them little comfort. Gold and nine other active members of the fur workers' union were arrested on charges of assault in connection with the strike of last summer. At the hearing they were held without bail, the judge declaring that he made this decision

(Continued on page 2)

STAND BY THE MINERS!

The Miners' Union, and with it the whole labor movement, faces a crisis in the combined attack of the coal operators and the treachery of the Lewis administration. Combined action of all miners and loyal support by the whole labor movement can defeat the operators' attempt to cut wages and smash the union.

The striking miners in the central field are surrounded by enemies and it will require the most energetic action by the whole labor movement to defeat the operators and to prevent Lewis from repeating such a betrayal as that of the Fayette miners in 1922.

Lewis has failed, purposely, to organize the unorganized miners. He has then made agreements with operators in outlying districts to mine coal during the strike. This is treason to the miners.

The whole labor movement must stand 100 per cent by the strikers.

The rank and file of the miners must refuse to scab on the miners of the central competitive field. They must demand a special International convention to lay plans to win the strike and to defeat the reactionary Lewis machine.

All labor must aid to bring every bituminous miner in America into the strike as a member of the United Mine Workers.

All labor must organize relief for the strikers, their wives and children.

All labor must stand shoulder to shoulder with the miners against the operators.

Save the Miners' Union!

Reactionaries in Needle Trades

(Continued from page 1)

on the basis of confidential "special information" against these workers. The source of this information can be judged from the following:

On the very night when these workers were in jail for strike activities, Matthew Woll, speaking before a "local" which was formed by Schachtman with men who scabbed during the strike, declared: "We've got Gold where we want him, and we'll keep him there." And two weeks earlier Edward McGrady, the A. F. of L. organizer, declared that the Joint Board leaders would soon be "in jail."

But the "special information" from the reactionaries notwithstanding, the court was finally forced to admit the fur workers, including Gold, to bail. In due time they will have to stand trial in a capitalist court. But in the meantime they are again on the fighting line, and the hope of the reactionaries to have Gold packed away where he would be unable to direct the fight for the right of the rank and file to elect their leaders and to determine the policies of their union, was frustrated.

Green to the Rescue

The reactionaries sent an S. O. S. to the High Moguls of the A. F. of L. The result was a special meeting of the Central Trades and Labor Council, called at Bill Green's request. This was an unusual meeting. All the fat boys were present and listened to the pleadings of their chiefs to raise cash for the holy war against the progressive rank and file. Saint Matthew, the specialist in red-baiting, pounded the patriotic drum and pleaded with the boys to help save the U. S. government from the "reds." Green denounced the expelled locals as "dual unions." But he rather spoiled his case when he declared: "If the whole International Furriers Union follows Gold, then the whole union must be expelled, and will be a dual organization." Dual to what, Brother Green?

But Organizer McGrady brought a really joyful message: "The police department has agreed to cooperate with us in every respect." And again: "Police Commissioner McAughlin has given us assurances that the picket lines will be broken up."

Police on the Job

It must be admitted that McGrady delivered the goods. The following noon the Industrial Squad invaded the fur district and, in their special fashion, began to propagandize the fur workers in favor of the kosher Green-Schachtman "union". The club was used senselessly and indiscriminately, and known militants, pointed out by right wing stool pigeons, were picked out for arrest.

But the indignant mass of fur workers soon made it so hot for these A. F. of L. "organizers" that they had to call out police reserves. The police were unable to make a case against the arrested militants and they had to be discharged.

No Surrender to Terror. With strong enemies arrayed against them, the expelled locals still have a hard struggle ahead of them. But it is certain that the workers will not be terrorized into submitting to a dictatorship of the reactionary clique. The latest injunction obtained with affidavits supplied by the reactionaries and restraining the Joint Board of the cloak and dressmakers from calling strikes, will be fought as these workers have fought this weapon last summer, with mass violation. And they'll fight on until their rights are safely established.

The splendid fighting spirit was again manifested at the meeting of the shop chairmen of the cloak, dress and fur workers unions. It

BY ANDREW OVERGAARD
Secretary, Metal Trades Progressive Committee

IN spite of the fact that the Baltimore and Ohio (B. & O.) railroad boasts of the biggest profits in its history of 100 years, the year of 1920 giving it a net profit of \$28,494,294 in dividends, representing a gain of 25 per cent in a single year, the officials of the unions continue their ruinous policy of paying efficiency experts to help the railroad corporations to intensify their exploitation of the already miserably paid worker.

Beyer a Liability

Instead of arousing the fighting spirit of the workers by insisting on the 1920 scale of wages, instead of setting the whole machinery of the unions in motion to organize the unorganized, the bankrupt leadership of Jewell, Wharton, Ryan, et al., continues to pay Captain Beyer \$750 a month to help the railroad companies and the metal manufacturers (such as the Speedomatic) to increase their already fabulous profits and eventually kill the unions as effective weapons of labor by making them an efficiency apparatus of the bosses.

According to Captain Beyer, everything is supposed to be fine and rosy on the B. & O. railroad, especially in the Glenwood shops, where the great "co-operation plan" was first put into effect. "The men are satisfied and sharing in the profits," etc. "There is no trouble in sight and no danger of strikes any more," claims Beyer.

Let's Take a Look!

Well, let us look into this wonderful situation.

Now it happens that the B. & O. recently granted the shopmen the magnificent wage increase of 2c (spell it out—T-W-O C-E-N-T-S) an hour, which at 48 hours a week amounts to 96 cents a week. If you feel disturbed lest these men waste this two cents in riotous living, just hold your shirt till you hear some more.

According to the "leaders" of the unions, "everything fortunately came out peacefully and the best relations exist between the management and the shopmen." The stars in their courses were, it appears, favorable to the two cent wage raise.

But these preachers of class peace forget to tell what were the reactions of the rank and file and also omit to say what took place after this magnificent two cents were bestowed upon the Glenwood shop workers. They leave out any account of what the shopmen have lost in actual wages since the 1922 strike; how much they still have to get to restore the wage cuts they have suffered. But the men who enjoy the so-called "co-operation", in the shops don't see through the same spectacles.

Where the Joker Comes In

The following statement is taken from a letter received by the writer from a "shopman" in Glenwood, and is typical of many others:

"The so-called wage increase is the bunk. We were given a two-cent increase, which gives us 96

was announced that Frank P. Walsh, well known in labor circles, has agreed to act as counsel for both Joint Boards. A resolution adopted by this meeting declares: "It is our firm conviction that through the united forces of both Joint Boards the struggle against the union splitters will be led to a victorious conclusion. We greet the unification of both Joint Boards as the first step toward the complete amalgamation of all the needle trade unions."

The Joker in the B. & O. Plan

cents a week; but the joker came later. Prior to the so-called wage increase, we were allowed one hour a week to check in and out from work, but shortly after this supposed wage raise, notices were posted to the effect that this would be discontinued. Now one hour a week at 74 cents, subtracted from 96 cents, gives us the great amount of 22 cents a week as our share of Beyer's "co-operation".

"You can well understand that the men are up in arms about it and are beginning to doubt their leaders—who have been promising them great shares of the profits, etc. They are beginning to realize the need of a militant leadership that will fight for their demands and put a militant policy into effect for the realization of the 1920 wage scale."

22 Cents a Week!

This is what the shopmen got out of "co-operation" with their bosses—22 cents a week—hardly enough to buy chewing tobacco or a three-ride street-car ticket in Pittsburgh. The shopmen in 1920 received from 40 to 42 cents an hour more than today. The profits of the railroads have more than doubled, and still the so-called leaders have the audacity to tell the labor movement that the men are sharing in the profits!

Instead of adopting a militant policy against the companies after

the 1922 strike, by amalgamating the weakened unions and mobilizing all forces for new attacks against the bosses, these misleaders are actually company-unionizing the once militant shopmen's organizations.

In the Metal Shops

The same process is gradually going on in the contract shops. The "compromise president" of the I. A. M., Mr. Wharton, employed Captain Beyer to put "efficiency" into the Speedomatic plant in Chicago. The same hypocritical promises were given the men there as were given to the railroad shopmen, although experience should have taught Wharton and his kind to see their falsity.

Instead of paying Captain Beyer a big salary to help the bosses discover new ways for saving labor, it would be more beneficial for the Machinists' Union and the Railway Department of the A. F. of L. to employ a few capable organizers (not lame ducks) and bring into the union the great masses of unorganized workers in the railroad and metal industries.

Also, immediate steps should be taken to amalgamate all the crafts into a real, departmentalized industrial union, and carry on an aggressive struggle for better conditions and higher wages—not a fake increase of 22 cents a week.

Win the Miners' Strike!

LABOR UNITY received a statement on the miners' strike issued by the Trade Union Educational League, which we publish herewith.

THE Miners' Union is facing serious danger. The hundreds of thousands of workers employed in the mining industry and mercilessly exploited by the mine owners are confronted by a determined effort on the part of the employers to strike a deadly blow at the union and to reduce the standard of living of the workers to a starvation level.

The arrogant offensive of the operators calls for the most thorough organization of all the workers' resources. It must be resisted with all the power at the command of the union. The thing that is at stake is the very life of the Miners' Union. A victory of the mine owners would mean increased misery and starvation for the miners, their wives, and their children.

The Lewis administration has failed completely to mobilize the workers and to prepare the union for the struggle. The vital task of the hour, the organization of the unorganized miners, was totally ignored. The demands of the progressive rank and file to put the union in shape for an effective strike was met with attack and persecution.

The coal operators are making all preparations in anticipation of the coming coal strike. The government, too, is making preparations to enter into the strike in its traditional role of strike-breaker to crush the workers and help the employers. The miners must be fully conscious of the nature of the class struggle in which they are about to engage and which will have to be prosecuted with the utmost determination and political consciousness in order to secure victory for the miners. This is a struggle which must heighten the political understanding of the workers, accelerate the movement for a labor party, and pave the way for an energetic struggle for the nationalization of the coal mines.

"Labor is entitled to the full value of its product" and a subscription costs only one dollar a year to show you how to get it.

The union cannot afford to give in to the demands of the mine owners. Acceptance of the employers' terms would mean destruction of the union and slavery for the miners. The challenge of the coal barons must be met by a determined and militant strike in the entire coal industry, supported by the labor movement as a whole. The proposal for separate district agreements, which is calculated to divide the miners and strengthen the employers, must be categorically rejected. A national strike for a national bituminous agreement must be the demand of all workers employed in the mining industry. Out of this struggle should come a strengthened Miners' Union and an aggressive campaign to organize every miner in the country.

Miners! Mobilize your forces for the strike on April 1st. Make the strike a national strike in the entire coal-mining industry. Demand a national agreement and resist district settlements. No wage cuts for the organized miners. Wage increases for the unorganized. Demand the utmost concentration by the union to bring the unorganized miners out on strike. Beware of the reactionary Lewis machine. Demand a special national convention of the Miners' Union to insure the victory of the strike. Defend your standards of living and save your union.

Workers of all industries! The fight of the miners is the fight of the whole labor movement. A defeat of the U. M. W. A. in the coming strike would be a defeat for every section of organized labor. Therefore the entire trade union movement must rally solidly behind the miners and extend them every possible support. The miners' strike must be won.

TRADE UNION EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE,

Wm. Z. Foster, Secretary.

If you read LABOR UNITY yourself, why not ask others to subscribe? Be an active soldier for progress!

Sigman's Cossacks

BY JOSEPH ZACK

IN New York we have in the police force an institution called the Industrial Squad. This is supposed to preserve "law and order" in industrial disputes and has the uniformed police to help it when needed.

Many workers may not know that the underworld, that part of the population composed of gangsters, thieves, murderers, etc., has anything to do with strikes, employers' associations and anti-labor law enforcement and even with control of unions. But this is the outfit that plays a very important role in all strike-breaking combinations, and the Industrial Squad fits into this like a head into a body.

"Democracy", a Hidden White Terror

The law permits picketing, permits organizing, but just try to do it and you'll find pickets arrested under all kinds of excuses, restrictions imposed, pickets clubbed and even gassed. Injunctions or no injunctions, law or no law, the employers in control of local, state or federal government find a way to do it brutally and thoroughly enough. Often they dispense with formalities.

When a strike looms, the employers' associations' legal department gets in touch with certain detective agencies and the police. The detective agencies have that underworld forces mobilized and the police stand by to aid the gangsters in the job of terrorizing the workers.

The Gang's All Here!

The Industrial Squad: Big strappy fellows with murky, animal faces, some of them former union officials, shady characters, sluggers, police. They know the underworld, the gangsters that sometimes work for the unions' side, the "Frenches", "Little Augies", "Jack Noys", et al.

Lately this gang was amalgamated with another parcel of cut-throats called the "Bomb Squad". Both squads are post-war innovations, the "Bomb Squad" was created for harassing the political labor movement.

The Industrial Squad employs a lawyer who handles their "business" and there is surely plenty of graft. Here is how it works: The Squad has its ears to the ground for any strike or organization drive. If the bosses are wise, an adequate financial contribution will do a great deal toward getting "proper service". An instance from last Summer's Interborough Rapid Transit strike can be given.

Slugging Strikers

One bright day as the strikers, many of whom are good fighters, Irish, were leaving their hall, they were bounced upon by the sluggers of the traction company led by the Industrial Squad. Strikers were black-jacked right and left, kicked and stabbed and one carried away with a broken skull. Uniformed police stood by, ready to use their clubs in case the striking motormen should get the upper hand.

Suppose the Industrial Squad had not existed? The company sluggers, if they had dared make a job like this, would not have such nicely arranged police protection and leadership. The strikers might have put up a good fight and badly organized police might have arrested the real offenders. Many things might have happened wrongly. But as it was, it was well organized.

The Industrial Squad has a free hand against pickets. It sees that the union's special committees carry no weapons, while the bosses' gangsters are free to carry guns, knives, black-jacks, etc. If any unionist is arrested for putting up a fight, savage sentences are handed them, as in the Rosalski cases, while the bosses' gunmen escape and even if caught red-handed, a

formal arrest is made and the gunman gets out with little trouble.

Sigman's Only Backbone

The reader may wonder what all this has to do with Sigman, the reactionary president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, but all should know that this whole machinery is solid with Sigman in his fight against the left wing in the union. Sigman is actively using the "law", the underworld and the employers' associations against the union's Joint Board. We should remember that the Industrial Squad was created during the post-war open-shop drive to fight the unions. But since the only unions who now put up a fight against employers for the workers are those led by the left wing, the Industrial Squad seems to be specially fitted for Sigman's dirty work.

A Fascist Job

It has gone so far in the present struggle between the rights and lefts in the needle trades that, if a worker is discharged for opposition to Sigman, a scab takes his place. If the scab is taken down to the union office (left wing) during work hours by pickets, Sigman merely calls up the Industrial Squad, the detectives rush up to the Joint Board offices, take the scab down and reinstate him in the shop just as if they were Sigman's business agents.

If there are any pickets in front of that shop the next day, they run the risk of being beaten up by Sigman's gangsters under supervision of the Industrial Squad. Thus does Sigman, a supposed "Socialist", use the tools of the enemies of labor against militant local unions that challenge his rule. It is the logical outcome of a degenerated trade union bureaucracy. The bosses take advantage and workers are being discharged, overtime is not

paid for, workers are speeded up and the situation is much the same as if there were no agreement.

Trying to Destroy Unionism

Sigman, of course, uses the Industrial Squad and the underworld not to maintain unionism but to destroy it. He gets help for delivering these workers to their class enemies; it is the employers and Tammany Hall who will be masters of the needle trades unions if Sigman and Matthew Wolf win. But that is a long, long way to go. The workers can not be brow-beaten for long.

Injunctions, gangsters and Industrial Squads will not be able to impose Sigman's leadership on these needle workers, and before this fight is finished there will be a defeat not only for Sigman, but we will be much nearer to a powerful Labor Party in New York City that will make it possible to uproot Industrial Squads, injunctions and all these practices with which the labor bureaucracy in co-operation with the gangsters' attempts to control the trade unions of New York.

Elections in the I. A. of M.

THE machinists Progressive Group has issued a statement calling for the support of the following candidates in the approaching elections for International officials of the I. A. of M.:

For Executive Council, United States, Peter Jensen, Lodge 492, Chicago.

For Executive Council, United States, A. T. McNamara, Lodge 1341, Baltimore.

For Executive Council, Canada, J. McGovern, Lodge 111, Montreal.

For A. F. of L. Delegates, J. Weydert, Lodge 390, Chicago.

For A. F. of L. Delegates, Wm. Waterworth, Lodge 113, Chicago.

For Law Committee, Jacob Friedrich, Lodge 66, Milwaukee.

The program of the Progressive Group in the election is as follows:

- 1) A general wage increase of wages in the entire industry, on the railroads by restoration of the 1920 wage scale.
- 2) Immediate organization campaign to organize the unorganized based upon a united drive of all the crafts both on the railroads and in the machine shops generally, the union to pay more attention to the unskilled and semi-skilled specialists and also take the initiative to organize the auto industry.
- 3) Amalgamation of all the craft unions in the metal industry.
- 4) Militant struggle against company unions and the B. & O. plan, Watson-Parker Law and other forms of class collaboration.
- 5) Removal of racial bars on account of race, color, etc.
- 6) Freedom of political expression in the union.
- 7) Bi-annual conventions.
- 8) Militant struggle against injunctions by the union supporting and participating in the movement for a labor party.

The statement analyzes the situation in the union and the various groups. It points out the bankruptcy of the Wharton administration, and its complete surrender to the bosses by the adoption of the B. & O. plan, its support of the Watson-Parker Law, its utter failure to organize the unorganized, its failure to carry out the I. A. of M.'s policy on amalgamation, and its general attack upon the progressive forces who insist upon a militant policy in dealing with the employers.

According to the statement the former Anderson group has practically disappeared and the Chicago section of this group, led by Fry, has joined the administration in its war against the left wing and progressive forces. Anderson and Hannah and the rest of the leaders in the last election have been practically deserted by the Chicago leaders and are running as independent candidates. The Progressive Group has made all attempts to get a statement of policy from these two, and also to unite all the opposition forces together on a definite program, but this has not succeeded.

The constitution of the I. A. of M. provides that a vote must be cast for six members of the Executive Council from the United States and one from Canada, or the ballot will be voided. The Progressive Group makes no recommendation for the other three from the U. S.

SHINGLE WEAVERS WIN STRIKE

Hoquiam, Wash.—The strike of shingle mill workers in this district has been won, the companies agreeing to take its employees back without discrimination at the rates of pay prevailing before the announced cut. Two thousand workers will go back to work.

The winning of the strike is a tribute to the fine spirit of solidarity of the workers. They were out for six weeks and previous to that had suffered a two months' lay-off. They had no strike fund and were just beginning to secure contributions from a few unions when their point was conceded.

Out of the struggle the International Union of Shingle Weavers with a membership of several hundred has been born. The men made no demand for the recognition of the union. It is expected that this will be one of the measures for action soon.

As a factor in the winning of the strike the newly organized Labor Unity Conference of trades unionists of Seattle is deserving of mention. Members of this group went to the strike zone at their own expense and assisted as speakers and advisers and with publicity.

A. F. of L. Did Nothing

The State Federation of Labor did absolutely nothing. William Short, president, and other officials made no attempt to connect with the strikers and the struggle was barely mentioned in the official paper. C. O. Young, the official organizer for the American Federation of Labor for this section, addressed a mass meeting in the beginning of the strike and counseled against the formation of a union until the men had been taken back.

The strikers preferred the advice of a Labor Unity progressive, and organized. It has not been decided whether or not the new union shall affiliate with the A. F. of L., the I. W. O. or remain independent. Many of the members have held cards in either of the first two organizations.

WHY NOT OTHERS?

THE membership of the International Brotherhood of Steam Shovel and Dredgers' union have voted by four to one to amalgamate with the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, thus ending a ten-year-old jurisdictional dispute.

The agreement to amalgamate was signed by both unions. We would like to know why other craft unions weakened beyond measure by division when fighting the bosses, and defeating each other systematically in jurisdictional disputes, do not amalgamate.

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Editorials**SHANGHAI—A MILEPOST OF REVOLUTION**

THE occupation of Shanghai by the Kuo-Min-Tang forces is a revolutionary victory of the greatest importance. The possession of this largest port of China and the key to the important Yangtse river assures the Chinese People's Party control over the largest part of the country. It makes inevitable a complete victory of the revolutionary forces within a short time.

It is significant that the surrender of Shanghai came as a result of the demoralization of the Northern armies, due chiefly to revolutionary propaganda. The increasing role played by the workers through their unions and strikes makes it certain that the Kuo-Min-Tang revolution will mark an important step toward the emancipation of the millions of workers and peasants of China from oppression.

The imperialist powers are obviously disconcerted by this great victory of the Chinese people. This is the more reason why the workers and exploited toilers everywhere should hail it as a victory of their own against the forces of exploitation.

RAILWAY WAGE AWARDS

PRACTICALLY all the standard railway unions have asked wage increases from practically all roads, but saying that would not tell half the story. Firstly, each union acts alone, and there are sixteen or more of them. Then each union divides itself into sections according to the railway system or region—and the result is a score of negotiations going on in which the unions fritter away their massed strength in interminable and innumerable conferences. And out of it all they get a disgracefully small part of what they asked for, which was less than they deserved in the first place.

This is the result of what seems to us nothing less than betrayal of the railroad workers by the railroad union officials, who behind the back of the men cooked up the Watson-Parker Law with the company executives and with them put it through Congress. Atterbury of the Pennsylvania open shop road had reason to proclaim the Watson-Parker Law a victory, but the union officials had no reason at all for making such a claim. But they did it, and deceived the membership—for a while.

The latest in the fiasco of railway wage arbitration is the refusal of the Canadian Pacific line to grant the miserable four cent raise that the arbitration board doled out to the Railway Clerks. The C. P. R. management actually wrote out their refusal to give the wages called for in the award, before the award was made.

It is time the militant railroad men were organizing groups in every lodge of every union on all lines to replace such officials as do not repudiate the Watson-Parker Law and all its works, with officials who will defend the interests of the men on the

job, who will reject all the sickening compromises with the companies who are rolling in profits, and enter into a nation-wide movement of all crafts, from engineer to section hand for restoration of the 1920 scale. And to strike if they don't get it.

SHINGLE WEAVERS WIN

THE winning of the shingle weavers' strike in Grays Harbor is a hopeful sign for the coming of a new spirit among timber workers generally. The industry at present is practically entirely unorganized. For many years the A. F. of L. maintained in the industry the International Union of Shingle Workers, which later became the International Union of Timber Workers. It collapsed and surrendered its charter to the A. F. of L. The I. W. W. has been unable to unite the workers of the industry. For the past several years the employers, with their "Four L's", their black-list and general campaign of terrorism, have run things pretty much as they have seen fit.

But a new spirit of resistance is growing. The notorious "Four L's" company union is rapidly dying out. The Grays Harbor strike is a forerunner of much bigger movements among the workers. This strike should give birth to an aggressive campaign to organize the great masses of unorganized shingle weavers, saw mill workers, and loggers.

A SLICK EEL IN A TIGHT PLACE

RECENTLY the railroad union paper "Labor" published an article on the increased productivity of labor showing that American workers in 160 industries had created in the year 1925, commodities worth \$380,000,000 more than they had in 1923, while wages decreased \$4,000,000 in the same time. The editor of Labor, who is a great fan for the B. & O. Plan, failed to answer the question which logically arises from this situation: "Then why hire Captain Beyer to speed up the workers?"

President Green of the A. F. of L. is more foxy. His news service recently carried statistics of the government showing that during the period from 1914 to 1926, all industries on the average show an increase in productivity per man per hour of 59 per cent, ranging from 6 per cent in boots and shoes to 211 per cent in rubber tire making. One would think that, after this, Green would be forced to go slow on his propaganda that labor must not expect more wages or cannot maintain its wages, unless it "co-operates" with the employers and speeds up production.

Green saw his danger and acted at once. In the March number of the *American Federationist*; he got a "bright guy" with a facel pen, one Ewan Clague, who is paid by the U. S. Department of Labor, to help him out of a tight fix. Clague wanders through twelve pages of pseudo economics of the Adam Smith school, and though he did his best he failed to get Green out of the fix and only produced some more contradictions.

After eight pages, he finally hit on the discovery that "high productivity is not a guarantee of high wages." He adds that "restriction of output" also is not a guarantee of high wages. Now you would think that it would have been well to stop right there and tell us what is the guarantee of high wages. But he don't stop. Instead, he meanders around through the mazes of capitalist economy, producing by chance some historic truisms, and leaves the problem where it was, but with the advice to the workers, several times repeated, that they must produce more just the same.

The only remotely possible reason to be deduced from Mr. Clague, is that it is good for capitalism. He shows how capitalism,

in its early stages of competition, over-produced by reason of such competition. But now, says he, "The growth of large corporations, the development of the banking system, and the growing acceptance by employers of responsibility for stabilized production—All these are producing a situation which is favorable to the success of a policy of unrestricted production on the part of the workers."

Favorable to the success of whom? we ask. Not to high wages for workers, as that is barred by your own conclusion that productivity has nothing to do with high wages. We may add that it has nothing to do with shorter hours either. Then, pray tell us, whom will this policy benefit? Not the workers who work, neither those who, thrown out of a job by the speed up of the ones who remain, starve on the street.

We would like an answer from Mr. Green as to precisely whom will be benefited by his "co-operation" for higher productivity if not the employers only, and a suggestion of how to get higher wages other than by strong unions which will strike if they don't get them.

STEEL WORKERS CONVENTION

ON April 5th the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers begins its annual convention in Granite City, Ill. This organization ranks as one of the most conservative in the United States. Its present officers show themselves totally incompetent to organize the tremendous armies of steel workers. Among its many other urgent tasks, the question of really building the union, from its present position of weakness, into a real fighting organization representing the great body of steel workers, stands first. The Amalgamated Association, once the strongest and most militant union in America, has fallen upon evil days under the administration of the ultra-reactionary Tighe group.

LABOR UNITY advocates the formation of a Labor Party based upon the trade unions.

DEMOCRACY

THE Granite Cutters' Journal tells a story of some sailors who were shipwrecked on a unknown coast. They wandered inland in search of possible inhabitants and finally came to a cross road where hung four corpses swinging from a gallows. Falling on their knees they exclaimed, "Thank God, we are in a Christian land!"

The story is told apropos of the pending criminal syndicalist law introduced in the Massachusetts state legislature, which would make the reading of the Declaration of Independence a crime or even attendance at such a ceremony. The Granite Cutters' Journal is against the law, but makes a serious error when it says that the lack of public interest in it shows how "foolish and unnecessary" it is.

Lack of interest only shows how foolish labor is, because these repressive laws are aimed at labor. Does anyone think that Morgan or Mellon or Doheney or Judge Gary or their ilk need any laws forbidding them trying to overthrow the government they control? No! It is labor, the workers who are the target of such laws.

Their struggles for better conditions have filled the jails of several states. And it is the duty of organized labor not only to oppose such laws actively, arousing the whole movement to their menace, but to demand the release of all working class prisoners, including Tom Mooney, Billings and the lumber workers rotting away in Walla Walla prison for loyalty to their class.

Company Benefit Associations

A "Welfare" Bait

BY ROBERT W. DUNN

NEARLY a thousand corporations in the United States have experimented with mutual benefit associations which the Metropolitan Life Insurance company describes as one of the "fifteen roads to good will in industrial relations". (The other fourteen include house organs, lunch rooms, pensions, group insurance, etc.)

A mutual benefit association is defined by the National Industrial Conference Board (the research department of the national association of manufacturers—Editor) as "an organization of employees with an industrial establishment, formed for the purpose of providing protection for its members in case of sickness, accident, or death". Functions similar to those performed by Workmen's Circles among Jewish workers are said to be within the province of a M. B. A.; only the benefits are confined to the workers in a single industrial establishment.

A Welfare Device

The Mutual Benefit Association must not be confused with the company union, as it has nothing to do with shop grievances, employe representation, or "industrial democracy". It is a welfare device, encouraged by American employers incidentally, to obtain company loyalty, increase production, reduce absenteeism and labor turnover.

Employers, writing to the National Industrial Conference Board, report that the M. B. A. "has taken the place with the men of the union", that it is a "real aid in managing and controlling" the workers; that the M. B. A. is helpful in conveying ideas to workers which "would be very hard to put over in any other way". Most companies reporting are non-union.

Company Unionism, Too

Although most M. B. A.'s have nothing to do with collective bargaining, one or two exceptions may be found. The Employes' Mutual Benefit Association of the West Kentucky Coal company may be regarded as a company union, for it holds an "exclusive labor contract with the company". This non-union coal concern's association is described in a company handbook as "an independent co-operative fraternity", offering "opportunities that no other organization offers", and striving "at all times to promote contentment".

A few M. B. A.'s have been organized to cover workers employed by more than one concern, and specifically for union-breaking. An

example is the American Plan Plumbers' and Steamfitters' Mutual Benefit Association of San Francisco, organized recently under the inspiration of the San Francisco Industrial Association, premier west-coast open shop association.

Trap Well Baited

Although membership in practically all M. B. A.'s is voluntary, the methods of approaching the new employe are so well polished that a refusal is almost unknown. Once a practical "closed shop" is obtained, the dues are often deducted by means of a check-off system.

With such automatic arrangements for membership and administration expenses paid by the company, the spirit and interest of the workers must be maintained through various outings, banquets, field days, excursions, dances and other measures for building esprit de corps and the "big family" spirit.

Some corporations using the Mutual Benefit Association device are the American Book Company, the American Sugar Refining company, American Telephone and Telegraph, Borden's Farm Products company, General Chemical company, Mergenthaler Linotype company, Autostrop Safety Razor company, Morse Dry Dock and Repair company, National Cloak and Suit company, Edison Company of N. Y., Railways company, Susquehanna Silk Mills, the U. S. Rubber company, and the U. S. Steel corporation.

Auxiliary to Company Union

A few of the corporations using a mutual benefit association in addition to a company union are the Wheeling Steel corporation, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company, Washburn-Crosby company, Standard Oil of Indiana, Pullman and Company, the Pullman company (the porters' union has found a benefit association and a company union equally enslaving), Proctor and Gamble, the Philadelphia Rapid Transit (Milton Plan), International Harvester company, Hooker Electro-Chemical company, DuPont de Nemours, Godyear Tire and Rubber, Hamilton-Walsh company, General Electric, Davis Coal and Coke, Colorado Fuel and Iron company and the Bethlehem Steel company.

The M. B. A. of the Pennsylvania Railroad employes, with a membership of 17,000, not only writes insurance for workers, but encourages them to purchase stock in the company.

Culinary Workers

What They Need

BY HUGO OEHLER

CONDITIONS of the culinary workers in the midwestern states have reached such a low point that these workers must map out a new program and adopt a militant policy if they do not want to be pushed still lower by the bosses. They must have more organization strength.

The Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International, with the Cooks, Waiters and Waitresses, and what is left of the Bar-Tenders, have ahead of them a real struggle if they desire to better their conditions and build an organization that the bosses will not laugh at.

Poorly Organized

Most of the small cities, where conditions are the worst, are without any locals at all, and the larger cities have only a small minority of the culinary workers organized. Comparing this industry and its

conditions with other organized industries—as well as conditions of the unorganized in other industries—we find that the comparison does not speak well of our situation relative to these others.

Some leaders may give lip service to the five-day week and the eight-hour day, but as far as the cooks, waiters and waitresses are concerned their immediate objectives do not fit on those cylinders. Ten hours, six days and poor pay is the union scale. The unorganized have it much worse than this, so you can readily see the plight we are in. Split shifts, late hours and early hours, puts the culinary worker where the druggists and doctors claim they have no time to call their own.

Scorned By the Bosses

According to the bosses, we are the riff-raff of the city, the scum of the earth, who think more of

corn liquor and gambling than we do of anything else. We exempt for their own reasons those chefs who work in large hotels, who brag of their "art" and scoff at the crew from the pot-wipers to the hash slingers.

We are accused, in other words, of responsibility for conditions that the capitalists have forced us to accept due to their strong industrial and political organization and the weakness of our unions and the absence of a strong Labor Party.

Conditions Get Worse

In their fight against the culinary workers, the bosses use the power of government, police and judges, sentiment, sob stuff, constitutions, and any old thing to back their economic power in beating the workers to submission, thus to swell their profits.

From day to day their process of grinding down the living standards of their workers goes on, almost unnoticed so gradual is the process, but telling vitally upon the lives of their culinary workers. Then when middle age comes on, the scrap heap or mental jobs await us. Hot, stuffy kitchens, long hours, few holidays, handling foods all day or night at such speed that the art of cooking is robbed of all excellence for speed and profit. Five-day week slogans and eight-hour day campaigns are fine, but we kitchen workers haven't any such a rosy objective at present.

People eat at all hours and every day, and culinary workers must stand the loss as long as his organization is so weak that it lets the boss get away with the excuse that he cannot afford three shifts and extra help for days off.

Those ghosts of former days, the bars, or sandwich shops, hot dog stands, Coney Island joints and drug store fountains, all serve light lunches like patent medicine peddlers at a side show. While other industries have been centralizing, the restaurant industry in some sections at least has been de-centralizing, and each step brings worse conditions than before.

Speed Up the Rule

The centralizing and standardization on the one hand, with the speed up, have affected the workers and forced them to such speed that they don't have time to eat with leisure any more. Hats is their tempo; grab a sandwich and rush back to pile up more profits for the bosses.

More and more the unskilled take the place of the skilled. Few are skilled, and many unskilled can easily handle the new joints. Other unions have waged a battle against the unskilled and their increase in their trades, but in the long run it is a losing battle. Now conditions are basically changed and the swelling ranks of the unskilled must be admitted into the unions.

Down With the Barriers!

The walls that held out union men and women in the making, must be battered down. High imitations, reinstatements that are unjust racial discrimination and craft prejudices must go.

Long hours, long weeks, low pay and rotten conditions can only be overcome by a readjustment of the labor organizations to labor conditions. The boss has cleverly used craft and racial prejudices to divide us, and these and the "superiority complex" of some crafts must be eradicated.

Unity in the Industry

Close co-operation in the ranks of the International as well as with other trades in the Food Industry is absolutely necessary. Our objectives must be higher wages, shorter hours and better conditions, and we must adopt such tactics as will get them. We must learn from the struggles of other workers and keep an eye on the maneuvers of the bosses. Above all, the progressives, the militants, the culinary workers who see the problem and the way to solve it, must organize their forces and fight for a policy of aggressive unionism.

Watching the Boss

BY ECONOMIST

PROPHETS who saw an immediate and sharp industrial depression in the fall of steel production over the year end, have been contradicted by the swift increase since January. There was an increase of 10 per cent from December to January. February operations were at 86.45 per cent capacity, and the present rate (middle of March) is above 90 per cent. January and February were only 5 per cent under a year ago, and March may be only a shade below March 1926. What may happen after the middle of the year may, of course, be a different story.

The fall off of unfilled steel orders compared to dates in previous years, cannot be taken seriously as a sign of depression, as it used to be, on account of the new custom of "hand-to-mouth buying" in steel as in many other industries. Yet there is a certain element of caution, at least, behind this very "hand to mouth" development. An industrial depression will come, says Leland Olds of the Federated Press, but come gradually, and signs of it, while not lacking, are as yet embryonic. "Prosperity", of course, means capitalist prosperity, as it don't mean anything to the average factory worker, whose wages, for men, are only \$30 a week, and for women \$17.

High Productivity

THE productivity of labor, per man per-hour (man-hour), has recently been shown to have increased enormously from 1914 to 1925 in eleven big industries sur-

veyed by the U. S. Department of Labor. The average increase was 59 per cent. But this, as we see, does not mean either higher wages or shorter hours for the workers. Those have to be fought for. Neither does it mean, necessarily, a greater total of goods produced. In automobiles, of course, this is true, but in some, as in leather, the total product was less, though the productivity per man-hour was higher.

This shows the tendency to displace labor by machinery, to create a permanent army of unemployed, and add to it constantly. The output in "traffic units" of the railway workers, for example, increased 40.5 per cent in the ten year period ending in 1926. The tens of thousands of railroad workers had to hunt their work. What will the workers do when there are no other jobs for a permanent and growing jobless army of many millions?

Respecting Production

The private owners of industry will not keep it running when the products cannot be sold, and sold at a profit. On September 1, 1925, the Wall Street Journal said:

"The country today can turn out more steel, more coal, more copper, more oil, automobiles, etc., than the demand calls for. If all these industries permitted capacity operations, prosperity would be short-lived."

The National Bank of Commerce recently said of cement production: "If prosperous conditions are to be maintained, it is imperative to slacken the rate at which capacity to produce is arranged."

Why the Pacific Labor Conference?

BY A. L.

THE international labor movement has long been confined to Europe, owing to its position as the chief industrial center of the world. A few European nations divided up nearly the whole world, drawing in raw materials and sending out commodities to colonies at high prices. By the super-profits thus gained, they were able to keep the skilled workers, the aristocracy of their working class, content with work and wages comparatively high. European capital long hindered the development of industry in the colonies.

But the world is changing under our eyes. The war speeded up the industrial development of the East. Great industries with all modern machinery are springing up with hundreds of enterprises in Bombay, Calcutta, Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, in the Philippines, Australia, etc. Industry and trade are being transferred to the countries of the Pacific, with their vast resources and nearly half the world's population.

Industrial Development.

The trade of the Pacific countries has now caught up with that of the Atlantic countries. Sydney, Manila, Hongkong, Shanghai, Kobe, and across the ocean, San Francisco, Vancouver, Seattle, have become the world's greatest ports. From 1913 to 1923, European trade fell more than 20 per cent, Asiatic trade rose more than 40 per cent and North American more than 50 per cent, the Pacific shore of the latter showing a particularly rapid increase.

In Japan, China and India, 20 years has changed the industries from handicrafts to machine production that took Europe 100 years to reach. Asian textiles have grown 106 per cent in 40 years, consuming 29 per cent of the world's cotton. The remotest islands of the Pacific are now occupied with great plantations, sugar factories, pineapple canneries, etc. Industrial development no longer is hindered, on the contrary western imperialists send their own capital to the East to exploit its cheap labor with modern machinery in the hope of forestalling their doom with increased profits.

Exploited Labor Revolts

A seven-day work week of 11 to 12 hours, wages hardly enough to buy a handful of rice, appalling housing conditions, no legal protection at all, woman and child labor unrestrained, perpetual indebtedness, such is the incredible exploitation of the workers of the East in the factories set up by imperialism.

But these millions are no longer dumb slaves. In China, India, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, the workers already are embarked on a struggle with international capital, with a will to sacrifice and a

bravery that makes them worthy to occupy the first place in the ranks of labor. The greatest event of recent years is the awakening of the masses of China, in great strikes which have left a trade union movement of about 1,000,000 members.

Class Struggle Everywhere

There is not an island on the Pacific in which industrial development is not accompanied by the class struggle, with strikes and at least the beginnings of labor organization.

But unity of action, close connection and co-operation between

conditions of slavery and low-living standards, reacts on labor all over the world. It makes easier the attacks of capitalism on European and American labor, the universal lowering of wages to that of Chinese coolies, to wipe out all privileges the white workers have fought for through decades.

No attempts to bolster up the position of Western workers by prohibiting immigration and by high tariffs can long avail them, since the export of capital easily gets around these obstacles. For this reason, every class conscious worker in Australia, the United States, Canada, South America and

But China is her biggest opportunity. Trade between United States and China has multiplied by five in 10 years, and with Asia as a whole 10 times in 25 years. The Panama canal was opened only five years ago, but its traffic already exceeds that of the Suez canal.

British trade has been falling off, but it is still powerful and Britain is feverishly rushing construction of the great Singapore naval and military base in preparation for war. Japan with its million unemployed is preparing for armed struggle to get more raw material resources, markets and fuel.

Labor Must Act!

This three-cornered struggle, with the French, Dutch and Italian playing a small part, is a barrel of dynamite which must explode, unless new forces, the national and labor movements of the East, together with labor of America, England and Australia, will combine to avert it.

Through the initiative of the Australian unions a conference of the trade unions of all countries bordering on the Pacific is to be held May 1, at Canton, China. (The program of this conference was given in the last issue of LABOR UNITY.—Editor). One of the chief obstacles of unity of labor of these countries is the prejudice against colored workers instilled by capitalist schools, press and reactionaries in the minds of American and Australian workers.

Pan-Asia and Pacific Dangers.

The same danger exists in the East, in the form of a Pan-Asiatic theory, a disguise of Japanese capitalism who got its tool, Suzuki, the leader of Japanese labor, to initiate the Pan-Asiatic Conference.

Other dangers are those reformist illusions at work in Japan and India, with labor leaders actively seeking class collaboration in true American and European methods, and pacifism also tries to fill the ears of the workers with beautiful words about the "peaceful intentions" of imperialism, while American capitalism is very fond of this method, with its talk of "disarmament," the "open door," and so on. American capital has already organized a special conference and a permanent propaganda bureau for this purpose in Honolulu. Capital is organizing more rapidly than labor in this direction.

Difficulties are great, but labor must overcome them all. American labor must help. "It must send its delegates, its greetings, and give its co-operation to the new movement, the first step of which is the May 1 conference at Canton. Workers and oppressed peoples of the Pacific countries, unite!

When you read this paper, don't forget that a dollar sent in with the subscription blank printed on page 7, will bring you LABOR UNITY for a whole year.

Hands Off China!

THE imperialists have thrown off their masks. The bombardment of Nanking, and the murder of hundreds of defenseless Chinese men and women, gives the lie to the protestations of the imperialist powers of peaceful intentions and friendliness to China. The display of the mailed fist is a challenge to the people of China.

The capitalist press has already begun to scare up a war spirit. The screaming headlines and hysterical reports of alleged massacres of numerous Americans and other foreigners in Nanking. The reports that the powers contemplate a change in their Chinese policy. The hurried despatch of additional battleships and marines. All point one way: war against the people of China. And the conflicting interests of the different imperialist powers in the Far East would sooner or later inevitably produce a general conflagration, another world war.

The workers must not remain indifferent to this prospect. The workers of England will no doubt use their power to hold off the murderous fist of British imperialism. The workers of America must raise their voice to exert pressure on the imperialists at Washington.

Every gathering of workers must protest against the bombardment of Nanking. Every meeting of a labor union or any other labor organization should pass resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the American armed forces from China.

Hands off China!

workers of various nations is an absolute essential for success. The establishment of such is the fundamental task of the Pacific Ocean Trade Union Conference to be held May 1, 1927, at Canton, China. It will be the first step to break down the barriers of distance, language, race and religious prejudice.

American Labor's Interest.

But others beside these exploited workers of the East interested in their unity. The industrial development in the East, where the latest technique is found together with

Britain, ought to be profoundly and directly interested in the unity of the Pacific-Ocean workers. Without the participation of these workers, all attempts at international unity are futile.

New World War Looms.

Another reason for Western Labor's interest in the East is the danger of a new and still more terrible world war. Rival imperialist nations are daily growing more belligerent in their fight for raw materials and for markets. America seeks markets, but like Germany in the '90s finds all places occupied.

Imperialism in China—A Drama in Five Acts



In 1900: "Pooh!"

In 1911: "Eh!"

In 1925: "Ah!"

In 1926: "Oh!"

In 1927: "Ouch!"

International Notes

GERMANY TWO thousand textile workers of the Rhine district are striking against wage cuts amounting up to 30 per cent. The strike is in defiance of the arbitration court scheme, the court having made the decision for the cut "binding." Most of the strikers are women.

The Leipzig district of the metal workers, having received a vote of 80 per cent for strike against the lengthening of the work-week from 52 to 54 hours, have called out 8,000 workers on a demand for a re-introduction of the 48-hour week. The arbitration court is meddling here also.

The Koenigsberg branch of the Railwaymen's union has long been controlled by the militants, on the 31st of January the left wing officers receiving 661 votes against 85 for re-election. In spite of this, they are declared dismissed by the national union's executive and a man from headquarters sent with dictatorial powers to take over the branch.

In Stuttgart, the left wing in the Shoemakers' union won the election against the conservatives who got only 419 votes against 983 votes for the progressives, with 62 per cent of the membership voting.

The Berlin Town Council has sued the Communist paper "Die Rote Fahne" for libel on account of its charges against a council member, Schlichting, of having made away with funds of the Machinists' Union, of which Schlichting is an official. Another official named Klebe is also involved. The paper had previously dared the accused to sue on their account, but they were silent until they got the capitalist city council to act, never daring to take it up in the union with the workers.

Early in February the united front of employers in the iron and steel, metal finishing and glass industries of the Saar Valley, posted notices of wage cuts to take effect March 1, both for manual and office workers.

An example of how the arbitration courts work against labor is shown in the Saxton textile mills, with its "made finding" the decision lengthening the workday to nine hours and allowing overtime above that. This applies to 425,000 workers and runs till June 30.

The Hirsch-Dunker unions (democrats) passed a resolution recently calling on the new German cabinet to adopt the bill proposed by the three chief trade union organizations of Germany which will regulate the working hours.

RUHR MINERS ON January 21 the four miners' unions decided to give notice to end the working hours' agreement on March 31. A conference of union officials approved the decision and demanded the union fight for re-introduction of the 7-hour day underground and the 8-hour day on top, calling on the miners to refuse to work overtime. The chances seem slim for a victory as after the British miners were defeated, largely because the German unions kept at work, during the British strike. They should have fought then.

GREAT BRITAIN THE London District Committee of the General Workers' Union has barred six of its members from holding office or being nominated for office until the next biennial convention of the union. Whole branches are also suspended, and in effect expelled by the decree which in part reads:

"The following branches and

members are disfranchised and debarred from participating in the administrative work of the district until the next congress of the Union: Wandsworth, Westminster, Deptford, Walthamstow No. 1, and City of London.

"Twelve other members are disqualified from any office in the union for six months. None of the members so disqualified can be granted a transfer to another branch."

This union's expulsion policy is particularly interesting, not only because it is perhaps the first British union to descend to the level of American reactionary unionism, but because its leaders have gained some hearing as "radicals" for championing the idea of the "One Big Union" at Trade Union Congresses, etc. But their idea of "one big union" is not that of industrial unionism with one union for each industry, but one big mixed union of all crafts and industries, or what is known as "mass unionism." They claim the right to edge into every industry irrespective of whether a strong industrial union already exists in it or not, or whether this supposed "one big union" has only a handful of members in such industry.

The expulsion policy is aimed at stopping the members of the left wing Minority Movement from advocating industrial unionism. The Minority Movement always approved of this union's attention in organizing the unskilled, and never supported attacks upon it by the craft unions, but the left wing stood for reorganization of all into industrial unions. A big protest at the expulsions is taking place.

Naive folks have always said that England was "so democratic" that any revolution would be "peaceful," but what can such an argument be worth when we see that the capitalists' government prosecuted not less than 7,316 workers for "offenses" during the general strike and miners' lockout, when the workers were merely fighting a wage cut and lengthening of the workday. Nine hundred were sentenced to jail, ten to the penitentiary, 3,488 were fined, 1,067 placed probation, only 1,175 had charges withdrawn or dismissed, only 54 had part of their prison term remitted, and 52 workers were still in prison on February 27 when the Home Secretary, William Joynson Hicks, the great apostle of "British democracy" reported.

Three definite attacks on the workers have been taken by the British government. One is the Blanesburgh Report, reducing unemployment benefits, pits single against married workers, forces women into work and men and boys to the army for food. The Poor Law proposals place the care of the poor on County Councils, who are hostile and take it from the city guardians who are elected. The third is the attack on unionism, designed to outlaw strikes, prevent picketing and interfere with union administration of funds.

FRANCE REPRESENTATIVES of the Federation of Officials (government employes) interviewed Poincare recently on the Federation's demands, particularly for wage increases. But the head of the government brusquely refused all their requests. The executive of the union quit at a meeting January 30, and put forward a slate for the next executive which ignored the progressive opposition. The opposition then put up its list and got one-third of the votes.

There are two railwaymen's unions in France, the conservative

and the radical "Unitarian" union. The conservative union's officers have been feeling the pressure of the membership for healing the split in the workers ranks. So they issued a manifesto blaming the Unitarian members for the split and setting forth certain conditions on which the conservatives might unite with the much stronger Unitarian union.

These conditions were: The trade unions must be "above parties and sects; there must be no outside interference; no formation of fractions; no attempts to get a general strike; no insults to trade union officials."

The organ of the Unitarian union replied with a proposal for an immediate amalgamation of the two unions on the basis of district committees with an equal number of representatives from each union. The slander that the Unitarians were responsible for the split was energetically repudiated and the right of any minority to form fractions was upheld, though in this case the Unitarians would be the majority and the conservatives the minority. No reply has yet been given by the conservatives, who were likely surprised that their talk of unity was given serious consideration.

POLAND THE recent congress of Metal Workers in Warsaw was a farce. Delegates were elected only in Upper Silesia, Dombrova and Craoov. This congress should have taken place in 1923. At that time the union had 28,000 members. In 1924 it had only 10,000, and today it has less than 5,000. There were only 36 people present at this congress and 19 of these were members of the executive.

This calamitous state of affairs is due to the treacherous policy of the reactionary leaders in all wage struggles and to their policy of ruthless expulsion of progressive members. Nevertheless there was an opposition present at the congress, but all their resolutions were rejected. Even the resolution calling for release of the political prisoners filling Polish jails was rejected. Then a workers' delegation from five Warsaw metal shops was barred from attending the congress.

The recent congress of the Polish Textile Union which took place a year later, than was arranged, was little better than the congress of the Metal Workers. Elections for it took place in 1925 except in a few places where left wing workers were elected who were refused a right to vote when the congress finally met. Factories with tens of thousands of workers were absolutely unrepresented.

The progressive left wing demanded a postponement of six weeks to have real delegate elections. This was rejected.

In 1924 the union had 80,000 members, while today it has only 43,000, according to the executive report, and there are 200,000 textile work-

ers in Poland. The left wing exposed the treachery of the reactionaries especially in the Lodz strike as one reason for decline of the union. A fight was made for proportional representation in election of the executive, but this was ruled out and the old gang have the executive completely in their hands.

AUSTRIA A SOCIAL Democratic shop steward in the Bleckman works in Muerzschlag, the chairman of the shop council in the steel works in Oberstoyland and the chief treasurer of the Metal Workers' Union in Muerzschlag, are accused of putting large sums of union money into their own pockets as well as considerable sums collected on behalf of the British miners during their strike. Berlin radical workers' papers publish the charges and demand an investigation.

The Austrian printers' union demanded a 7 1/2 per cent wage raise to compensate for increase in the cost of living. The employers were foxy and insisted on having the dispute handled by an arbitration court. The workers refused, and as a result there were strikes, passive resistance and lockouts. Finally the printers agreed to let the matter go to an arbitration board.

Unemployment is so prevalent in Austria that the government has appealed to employers to retain (if possible) their usual force, to permit no overtime and in taking new workers to see that married women whose husbands are working are not given preference.

The Teachers' Union of Lower Austria in a recent conference pointed out that wages were below those in any other district of Austria, and demand a 45 per cent wage increase to bring them up to the level of the elementary teachers in Vienna.

FIGHT COMPANY UNION THE shopmen on the Virginian railroad are reported in Princetown, West Virginia, papers, as having revolted against the company union and formed locals of the shop crafts.

This has shocked Mr. Hix, president of the line, and he has ordered a bulletin posted threatening "drastic action" against those workers who have rebelled against the fake employe organization controlled by the company. In addition he spread reports that the company would shut down the shops if the new union locals were not dissolved.

While this is in formal conflict with the Watson-Parker Law, Mr. Hix does not seem to take that document seriously, and it remains to be seen if the men's appeal after interminable arguments about it, ever gets upheld by the fancy machinery set up by the law. The men's sole strength lies in a strong and militant union on that line with genuine support from all rail unions nationally. This they must get without stint in case of a real struggle, whether it be lockout or strike.

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Science and Invention

By ROGER COMPTON

QUITE a war has been going on between nitrate producers, whose product supplies the fertilizer needed for increasing the yield of agriculture. It is a war between nitrate produced from mines, synthetic or artificial nitrate. Recent discoveries on both sides have sharpened the conflict.

The Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation has, for instance, purchased a site at Hopedell, Va., for the extraction of nitrogen from the air "on a grand scale" after experimental work costing about \$4,500,000. This company promises to "make America independent of importation either for fertilizer or the making of munitions" now obtained from Chile and Germany. Experiments have been going on for five years. Muscle Shoals was found "unsatisfactory" while Hopedell, Va., which will now become a new industrial center, given a large acreage accessible to both rail and deep water transport.

ON the other side are the gigantic Guggenheim mining interests, who say that they have perfected a process which extracts 90 per cent of the nitrate from the Chilean nitrate-bearing rock known as "caliche" instead of the old hand method which got at the most only 65 per cent.

Daniel Guggenheim says, "At the Coya Norte plant, the caliche is mined by large electric shovels and is transported to the plant by electric trains. In the plant itself, mechanical methods entirely are used for handling. At no time is it handled by hand. When in full operation, this plant will produce 500,000 tons of nitrate per year, many times more than the largest plant in existence heretofore."

One fly in the Guggenheim ointment is the export tax charged by Chile. But he says confidently that agents of the corporation are now working on the Chilean government, and as imperialists have a way with them in Latin America, he expects the tax to be reduced. Then, says Guggenheim, the use of artificial nitrates which he claims "sours the soil," can be done away with. The Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation will probably make its reply to this challenge on the market.

BUT one other thing is interesting. Both nitrate products urge a bigger use of nitrate fertilizers, Guggenheim saying that in one instance alone of the 38,000,000 acres planted to corn in the Southern states, where the yield is now about 19 bushels to the acre, this could be increased to from 29, to 31 bushels.

This would be fine, but alas, we have a capitalist system where things are grown to sell and not to use. And why should the farmers buy nitrate to increase the yield of the nation some 38,000,000 bushels, paying for the fertilizer, the added amount of labor in harvest, and handling, when the price of each bushel would, as it is almost sure to do, go down so that they would get no more for the increased crop yield than they did before?

THE biochemistry department of the University of California has discovered a substance called "oocycin," extracted from the blood of various animals, that fertilizes and produces new individuals from the egg of the common sea urchin in from 20 minutes to several hours. This opens the possibility of making animals artificially, but so far they have not lived long.

THE JAILBIRD

By J. S. Wallace.

*The judge's words may pound my ears
Like a devil dancing on a drum;
But better that than women's tears
For children starved and I stay dumb.*

*The prison bars may sear my soul
Like a gridiron in the heat of hell;
But better that than men dig coal
For a cut-throat crew and not rebel!*

International Seamen's Club

THE seamen of the world who go from country to country and port to port have naturally more internationalism than the fixed shore workers who pursue their trade along a routine path of home-street and factory day after day and year after year. Moreover, they feel more keenly the need for international unity of the workers. In addition, those seamen whose ships have called at ports in the Soviet Union since the revolution, have discovered that Russian sea and port workers have, as a part of their educational tasks, established clubs in many ports which are a thriving center for all seafarers, and are liberally enjoyed by Russian workers inspired them to struggle also—strikes often taking place in Soviet ports which were won, but the conditions won were stolen back once their ships left Soviet waters.

The Idea Spreads

Thus the seamen of many lands wished to create such clubs as they found a home and center of militant action in Soviet ports. As it is, they have to put up with filthy shipping agency quarters, sickening missions and thieving water-front barrooms, where they needed support, protection and the power of militant unity.

So it came about that in ports of many countries International Seamen's Clubs have been set up, "Interclubs" as they are called, which the workers of sea and harbor find an immense aid to their welfare and unity. One has recently been established in the port of New York. Since the aims are the same, all Interclubs pursue much the same methods and tend to keep contact with one another.

Truly International

Within the club fraternization of the different races is encouraged, and although it is sometimes inconvenient to speak to an audience made up of British, Italians and Germans, where each national section has to sit and listen to speeches in a language it cannot understand while waiting for its turn to come, still even this difficulty brings a certain fraternity which is shown in many pleasing ways.

After meetings, there is often a dance, and we may see how an Italian seaman waltzes or fox-trots with a German, or better yet witness a white seaman promading around the hall with a Negro or Hindu. Concerts and socials invite seamen of all ships to take part in the program, and a real international concert brings seamen on the platform with song, music, recitations, comic performances, etc.

The British give a chorus with "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," or an individual seaman gives a solo of "Old Poll"; The Italians usually are fond of giving opera selections with many gesticulations and the Negroes sing comic songs and give recitations. The Greeks decorate themselves with great handkerchiefs and take the platform in threes or fours to perform Greek

dances. Thus the evening is given color and international spirit.

To Build World Union

But the big task and aim of the club is to spread the idea of international unity and that of building an international seamen's organization. This problem seems very difficult, and seamen are so accustomed to being betrayed and robbed by such leaders as Havelsok, Wilson and the union officials of many countries, that they look for a guarantee that things will not be crooked in the new international union that is to be.

Seamen know well the futility of sectional struggles, and how seamen of different lands are kept by ship owners competing against each other. So they look to the few Interclubs there are to provide a means of carrying on education, organization and unity.

Organization and Function

The Interclub properly organized must be a solid organization with one central executive bureau guiding and directing the work. A Central Committee, where possible, composed of and controlled by the international transport workers' organizations, or representative of their memberships, affords a desirable co-operation of all forces. Where functioning properly, the club is the home of every seaman, his source of support and protection from all the harpies of the waterfront.

The Interclub also assists the shore workers. By giving seamen a real home and center of pastime, fewer fall into scrapes, and if some do, then the Interclub is able to settle matters, and it certainly preserves the seamen from the sharks who prey upon them in every port.

But one of its most important features is that it acts as a connection between workers' organizations on shore and those of the sea.

Connects Sea and Shore

Seamen are invited through the club to all lectures, affairs and entertainments held by labor unions of any industry ashore. And trade unionists who spend their lives in parliament making shows, for example, are invited to attend club affairs—both methods lending a fine chance to get each type of worker out of their routine and imbued with class feeling.

The Interclub enables seamen to become not only carriers of goods from country to country, but bearers also of working class ideas and knowledge of practical work for solidarity and emancipation. Seamen have every interest in bringing pressure on their unions to contribute to the support of the various Interclubs in the larger world ports.

Build the Interclub!

The "missions" and "sailors' homes" now existing are anything but working class organizations, and usually are centers of scabbery that no seaman of self-respect visits. But the Interclubs have won a place in the hearts of all

Sport Sidelights

BY ALBERT STUART

FOR the coming year it looks like Welker Cochran will wear the crown as king of the Ivories. Cochran defeated young Jake Schaefer during the meet in Washington, D. C., on March 12. During the meet Welker suffered defeat at the hands of Willie Hoppe, erstwhile champ for sixteen years.

WITH Capt. Charlie McGinnis, who took three first places, Wisconsin clinched the seventeenth annual indoor track meet of the Big Ten. The Badgers took the meet without being pressed by any of the other schools. They took the victory by virtue of four firsts and placing in all but two events, showing a well-balanced track team.

The meet was featured by McGinnis' work, who plus winning three events, broke the conference record for the high jump with a leap of 5 feet 5 inches. The meet as a whole was not up to standard. Illinois and Iowa failed to show up well, and no records except the high jump were even threatened.

MICHIGAN continues to show her prowess in the athletic field. Despite our prophecy some time ago, Michigan came out on top in basketball. The combination of Osterbaan, Chambers, and Harrigan proved unbeatable as they swept through the second half of the race. Michigan has also taken the wrestling championship by virtue of three first places.

CHICAGO proves to be a jinx to the champions of the cauliflower industry. During the last year Kansas, Walker Flowers, Rosenberg, all lost their titles here. Then Mushy Callahan, the junior welter-weight champ, loses to Spug Meyers, which, however, did not involve the title. Then the latest topple is the defeat of Pete Latzo, middleweight champ, at the hands of Joe Simonich, also a match which did not involve the title.

Chicago remains a warning to the kings of maulers to stay away lest they find themselves minus a crown and with a mutilated prognosis.

FROM reports, Buck Weaver, banished from baseball because of alleged participation in the scandal of 1910, has been refused reinstatement. In the last scandal which ended in a shuffle, Cobb and Speaker were exonerated. It's funny how this latest scandal suddenly ended. Weaver has the confidence of the fans and most everyone else, that he did not participate, also that he was found not guilty.

There is a difference between Buck and Cobb and Speaker, former managers who helped give Landis his parasite job of \$65,000 per. But when it comes to Weaver, Landis grinds his teeth to show American spirit and fair play. Still, most of us sports would get a kick out of Buck performing anywhere in the infield. But this will hold baseball till the season opens when we will witness in all probability a record year of thrills and scandals.

seafarers who visit them. "If there were such places in every country it would be like going from one home to another," is the expression often heard from seamen.

Every seafarer, regardless of position, race or color, who has the interest of his class at heart, should do his part to build these Interclubs as a move toward world unity.