





Problems of the Marine Workers

Marine Workers Need Unity

by A New York Marine Worker

Within the last decade the various unions of seamen and marine workers have been in a precarious position.

In 1902 the International Seamen's Union was organized and affiliated with the A. F. of L. This union was reorganized in 1908 and also in 1912.

The Marine Workers Industrial Union About three years ago in the port of New York a Marine Workers Club was organized for the purpose of building up in all the existing unions a rank and file movement for militant action against the bosses.

What Happened to the Union! Directly responsible for this debacle of the movement are the policies pursued by the officials in charge of the organization.

Demoralization Reigns Demoralization prevails throughout the entire organization. Organizers in the field work frantically to the headquarters trying to find out what the organization is doing.

As a result of such an irresponsible, incompetent regime of bureaucrats dominating the organization, the branches in the various ports have been closed, the union having three or four branches in existence, these branches however doing practically nothing.

In the New York harbor in the last months a serious wage-cut has taken place. The following companies were involved: The Moran Towing Co., The Cornell Co., The Trap-Rock Co., O'Brien Bros., and Clay Bros.

The Drive Against the Foreign-Born Lately the government authorities began a drive against the foreign-born seamen and marine workers.

India In Revolt PRESENT PERSPECTIVES IN INDIA

by S. K. Vidyarthi

(Concluded from last issue) Throughout the country, there are hardly a few dozen people who intelligently feel the necessity for the Communist Party.

The perspective of the Indian revolution transcending national-democratic limits depends upon the hegemony of the proletariat in the struggle. Proletarian hegemony, in its turn, cannot be a reality until the C. P. is there as a functioning political factor.

The tragedy of this situation is that, due to the lack of a united fighting seamen's front, the American workers are welcoming the raids against the foreign-born workers as an opportunity of getting jobs for themselves while the foreign-born workers welcome deportation as an opportunity to escape frightful conditions prevailing on the waterfront as a result of the unemployment situation.

Unity Needed The failure of the Marine Workers Industrial Union and the other organizations to lead the workers in struggle should make it clear that it is necessary for militant rank and file workers on the waterfront to get together to force their various organizations to do something to get out of the present deplorable situation.

Confusion in the German Party

THE RECENT PLENUM OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY

A few days ago there took place a plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany.

The estimation of the situation The estimation of the situation is a disastrous hodge-podge of the old ultra-left illusions and some halfhearted corrections under the pressure of the Opposition.

With the continual sharpening of the economic and political crisis in Germany there are already arising tendencies of a revolutionary crisis in the country.

But a few lines later on we read of an already existing "revolutionary upsurge of the labor movement" whereas what we really see is an upsurge of the Fascist counter-revolution.

The Bruening government is characterized as the "government of the carrying thru of the Fascist dictatorship." That means that Fascism has already conquered in Germany.

The relationship of capital in Germany has taken on the character of a maturing but not yet matured Fascist dictatorship.

2. After the American Revolution. THE NEGRO SLAVE REVOLTS

Unemployment and the Party

Unemployment in Omaha

by Roy Stephens

One of every three workers out of a job! Ten per cent of the total population out of employment and looking for work! This is the situation confronting the workers in Omaha.

This estimate of the number of jobs in this city was made recently by a Nebraska welfare agency, Senator LaFollette read their report during a recent speech on the Senate floor and immediately Mayor Metcalfe and other city officials got busy trying to make the workers believe that there isn't much unemployment here.

The city officials and the local capitalist newspapers boast that the needs of the unemployed in Omaha are being taken care of by these means and by the Community Chest.

But jobless workers find it impossible in most instances to get a penny from any of the twenty-three organizations that share in the funds of the "Chest".

The police and municipal judges have another way of persecuting jobless workers. Unemployed workers are arrested at the slightest provocation and charged with "vagrancy".

THE RICHMOND INSURRECTION

The first important planned uprising took place in 1800 in Richmond, Va., under the leadership of Jack Boulton and Gabriel.

DENMARK VESEY

However, the contemplated slave insurrection of 1822, under the leadership of Denmark Vesey, a free Negro, is most remarkable because of its planfulness.

UPRISINGS AT SEA

Some of the uprisings at sea are worth noting. In one of them, a hundred thirty-five Negro slaves, while transported from Virginia to New Orleans, seized the vessel, under the leadership of one Madison Washington.

THE NAT TURNER INSURRECTION

The next formidable attempt was in 1831, under the leadership of Nat Turner, who recruited a band of fifty or more and inspired them with a great religious fervor.

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have cut wages in one form or another. The Brandeis Store, the biggest department store here, has been firing women workers who are married, giving the excuse that they want to give single girls a chance.

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The restaurant workers have undoubtedly been hit worst of all by this drastic wage cutting campaign of the bosses. Practically every restaurant in the city has cut wages from 25 to 50 per cent.

The meat packing houses are running at about one-third capacity. Cudahy and Armour's have introduced Hoover's "stagger" system of putting every worker on part-time with no increase in pay.

Dissatisfaction In The A. F. of L.

There is a growing dissatisfaction amongst the organized workers of the A. F. of L., especially the building trades workers. For instance in Lincoln, Nebraska, recently over two hundred of the rank and file of the A. F. of L. members marched thru the streets in a body to the city hall and demanded relief from the city government.

The official Communist Party has done practically nothing to organize the jobless here. The first meeting on unemployment during the last year and a half was held last November.

Since then they have held two more meetings but the speakers, instead of stressing the need of fighting for immediate relief talked only of "revolution", and "overthrowing capitalism".

Books Received

The following books have been received by the Revolutionary Age and will be reviewed in coming issues.

THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE SOVIET UNION

by Calvin B. Hoover. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1931.

ZUR PREUSSISCHEN GESCHICHTE

(On Prussian History), by Franz Mehring. Two volumes: vol. 1, from the Middle Ages to 1806; vol. 2, from 1806 to the Foundation of the Empire. With an introduction by Ludwig Pollmann. Soziologische Verlaganstalt, Berlin, 1930.

ZUR LITERATURGESCHICHTE

(On Literary History), by Franz Mehring. Two volumes: vol. 1, from Calderon to Heine; vol. 2, from Heine to Gorki. With an introduction by August Thälheimer. Soziologische Verlaganstalt, Berlin, 1930.

H. G. WELLS, by Geoffrey West. W. W. Norton and Company, New York, 1931.

THE SOVIET CHALLENGE TO AMERICA

George S. Counts. The John Day Company, New York, 1931.

emancipation. It made it possible for the Negro to become a section of the American labor movement which alone holds forth the promise of the eventual liberation of all toilers from exploitation and oppression.

Already the Negro has in many instances shown significant signs of militant determination to achieve racial emancipation and signs of revolutionary class consciousness. The glorious traditions of his struggles against oppression under the slave regime will stand him in good stead in facing his new problems.

The Economic Week

SLIGHT seasonal increases in a number of industries have given superficial observers the impression that the bottom of the economic crisis has already been generally reached.

and 58 1/2 a year ago. Automobile output showed a slight decline for the week. International factors are not visibly encouraging.

The Civil War and the emancipation of the Negro from chattel slavery did not solve the Negro question. The Negro found himself under new forms of oppression and exploitation.

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