

WORKERS AGE

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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Five Cents

At First GLANCE

By JAY LOVESTONE.

THE increasing difficulties in which the Party of the New Deal now seems to be immersed are attributable entirely to the contradictions aggravated and generated by its much acclaimed relief measures. For instance, the recent defeat suffered by a Democratic Congressional candidate in Rhode Island is in nowise due so much to revived Republican popularity as to dissatisfaction with the Democratic Party because of the consequences of the AAA for the textile industry in New England.

With all that, it would be fool-hardy to bet on Republican chances in 1936. Hoover's "prosperity" spectre still haunts the G.O.P. Colonel Knox, one of the whitehopes now being shoved forward by the reactionary wing of the Republican Party, is nothing but a soiled stuffed-shirt. There is, however, one ray of hope for the Party of the Elephant. This is Borah. If Borah could or should be nominated—and his chances of nomination today are better than ever in his long Republican career—then the Democratic Party would have a lively and not very comfortable time of it in 1936. Borah can match all of Roosevelt's liberalism with something to spare—in foreign as well as domestic relations. Borah cannot be worsted in oratory, color, vigor, initiative and industry in the realm of bourgeois politics even by that tempestuous demagogue, now the landlord of the White House. Borah can claim much of the "good" and disclaim as much of the evil of the Democratic Party as any standard-bearer that the Republicans might put up.

But we are still very far from seeing Borah nominated, even with a reactionary running-mate like Vandenberg, Ford's Senator from Michigan. Heavy industry and oppressive finance capital aren't yet ready to take a chance with such a nominee, despite the lure and lustre of the Borah myth in the mid-west and far-west where the Republican Party must at least recoup its fortunes if it is to stand the slightest chance in the electoral college in the coming year. This symbol of the remnants of American individualism in the ranks of the petty bourgeoisie is not an all-together reliable pillar for the biggest capitalist interests in such times of strain and stress as are now at hand.

THE signs of the time are changing as rapidly as are conditions. On the eve of the involuntary exit of Hoover from the Capital, the agricultural areas of this country were deeply stirred by "tea parties" organized by the farmers with "neckties" (ropes) in hand for the representatives of insurance companies seeking to foreclose their farms. With the arrival of Roosevelt and the AAA, with the momentary improvement of conditions in the agricultural districts, foreclosures abated and, for a while, these tea and necktie parties became as rare as a hen's tooth.

But recent press dispatches indicate that discontent in the rural areas is again mounting. Within 48 hours northern Missouri farmers took for a ride a couple of United States Marshalls who tried to foreclose in behalf of Wall Street Insurance corporations. This is welcome news indeed. This is the beginning of the breaking of the Roosevelt soap bubbles in the rural mid-west. Representative Lemke was not at all stretching the truth when he said: "Unless Congress acts before adjournment there will be disturbances as this country has never experienced. Self-preservation is the first law of nature and whenever we put two million families into misery, trouble must be expected."

At last even some of the best paid Roosevelt boosters are admitting that the mortgage situation is becoming worse—in no small measure because of the momentary increasing land values and the price of farm products flowing from some of the New Deal "remedies" themselves. The latter have encouraged mortgage holders to try to grab off the land. The Supreme Court decision against NRA has only whetted the appetite of these land grabbers because of their notion that now is the time to make their miserable hay.

SPOKEMEN for the present National government in England are now raving about their great achievement of bringing unemployment down to less than two millions in the British Islands. This is being hailed as a sign of the success of the Baldwin government and as

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SOLIDARITY FEATURES CLERKS' STRIKE

Auto Union Scores Green Burocracy

Committee Appeals To A.F.L. Convention Against Green's Methods Of Suppression

The convention of federal locals of automobile workers is over. President Green has returned to Washington and the delegates to their various homes but what happened at that convention will not be forgotten for some time to come.

The delegates to the convention knew very well that they were at last to receive a charter as an international union of the A. F. of L. but what they did not know was that the burocracy continued to have the most profound distrust of them. Hence the most determined efforts on the part of President Green to saddle this young international with a burocracy of his choosing. And when the delegates voted overwhelmingly against Dillon—Green's nominee—for President, Green pulled wires, cajoled, browbeat—and when that failed to impress the delegates he just forced his slate down their throats.

Resentment among the auto workers and delegates at this high-handed action ran high and finally resulted in the election of a committee of seven from the convention to appeal against Green's action at the convention.

It is to be expected that the auto workers will secure the support of many delegations at the A. F. of L. convention in the struggle for the retention of the autonomous rights of the international unions.

Research Men Declare Strike

Seventy underpaid chemists of the Consumers Research Buro went on strike this week in New Jersey. The demands include a \$40 weekly minimum (it is now \$16 for chief chemists!) double pay for overtime, and union recognition. John Heasty and several others were fired for union activity, this action precipitating the strike. The union is affiliated with the A. F. of L.

The silent front of the corporation heads was broken by the erstwhile peerless leader of the American League Against War and Fascism, a Mr. J. B. Matthews, who denounced the strike as the work of "radicals" and "outside agitators". Mr. Matthews, no doubt will call out the State Troopers against the maliciousness of these striking chemists who are not satisfied to work 60 to 80 hours per week to supply the facts for his triumphal lecture tours before the women's clubs of America.

It is rumored that Mr. Matthews will continue his splendid struggle against War and Fascism on the Democratic ticket this fall.

C. P. O. Convention Closes With Unanimous Resolution

Trade Union Report Draws Intensive Discussion; Condition Of Revolutionary Movement Discussed For Two Days; Unanimous Resolution Carried

The Fifth Convention of the C.P.O. (August 31 to September 2) closed after three days of exhaustive discussion, with the almost unanimous adoption of a resolution of the Seventh Congress of the Comintern and the election of a National Committee of 23. Thus our enemies who had speculated so much on the outcome of the convention are left very much disappointed.

The convention consisted of over 80 regular delegates and a number of fraternal delegates from such organizations as the Lithuanian Communist Opposition. Practically all important centers in the country were represented. Delegates from newly organized units came from Buffalo, N. Y., Lansing, Mich., Baltimore, Md., and St. Louis, Mo.

The name of the organization, which the National Buro had proposed be changed, remains the same for the time being. The convention voted to give full power to the incoming Buro to change the name of the group when and if it is found advisable.

The reporters at the convention were

Jim Cork on the international situation, Charles Zimmerman on the situation in the trade unions and Jay Lovestone on the present situation and our tasks. Needless to say most of the discussion centered around the latter report since that also involved an estimate of the present position of the Communist International and our attitude to it. The resolution dealing with this section of the discussion will be found elsewhere in this issue.

A letter from the Communist Party of Germany (Opposition) presented the tremendous difficulties of underground work in Germany today and the crying need for assistance. Our convention expressed its sympathy with the relatives of the 14 comrades who had been killed and sent its greetings to the many hundreds now in concentration camps.

The Convention sent revolutionary greeting to Comrade M. N. Roy a prisoner of British imperialism in India and to Comrade Jack Soderberg, a class war prisoner of our own bosses.

Reactionaries Threaten Split In New York Teachers Union

Lefkowitz And Linville Resignation Coming; "Rights" Expect A. F. of L. Convention To Lift Teachers' Federation Charter; Union Unity Now In Danger

The Linville-Lefkowitz administration of the New York Teachers Union has resigned. This move on the part of the leaders of the Union for the past twenty years, comes as the culmination of their readiness to do anything, including wrecking the Union, rather than tolerate the presence of progressive and left-wing elements in their midst. In the course of their desperate union-splitting tactics the battle shifted from Local 5, New York, to the convention of the American Federation of Teachers, and later, when Wm. Green rushed to the aid of the reactionaries, became a question which will find its place among the issues facing the forthcoming convention of the A. F. of L.

The long entrenched regime of Linville and Lefkowitz had become increasingly alarmed over the growing influence of the various groups of militants, progressives and left-wingers. They buttressed their power by every trick and maneuver known to labor burocrats. They did not hesitate to abolish membership meetings. They raised the hue and cry of "Reds". They used the bourgeois press and the Board of Education to intimidate the increasing number of teachers who demanded aggressive action in the face of wagecuts and

worsening working conditions. With these methods they not only failed to organize the mass of the teachers into the Union, but effectively frightened away the more timid and conservative among them. At the same time, they sought to destroy the effectiveness of the union by driving out the militant and progressive elements.

Finally, over the heads of a majority of the members they called in the A. F. of T. to investigate Local 5 New York. The investigating committee recommended the revocation of the Local's charter in order to allow the Linville-Lefkowitz clique to reorganize a "safe and sane" local. Under the pressure of militant and progressive forces at the convention the Executive Council balked at this wrecking move.

Lefkowitz and Selma Borchard, Washington representative of the teachers, rushed to Bill Green for help. The President of the A. F. of L. telegraphed the Executive Council to revoke the charter under the threat of expulsion of the entire A. F. of T. from the American Federation of Labor. The convention was thrown into an uproar. Widespread resentment over Green's unwarranted "interference with the autonomy

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Dress And Cloakmakers Out In Support Of Strike Of Shipping Clerks

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The strike of the 12,000 shipping clerks in New York's garment industry is arousing nation-wide attention. This is true not because the shipping clerks are considered such an important craft but for the simple fact that this strike has brought forth a degree of labor solidarity unseen in the American labor movement.

At this writing 30,000 cloak and dress-makers, members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, have walked out on strike refusing to work with scab shipping clerks. Needless to say this development did not come about without the sympathetic action of the leaders of the I.L.G.W.U. Charles Zimmerman, a vice-president of the I.L.G.W.U., spoke before the strikers and told them that altho the agreement with the manufacturers makes it possible for the I.L.G.W.U. to call a strike yet there is nothing in the agreement to make union dressmakers or cloakmakers work in the same shop that employs scab clerks. The thousands of strikers massed in the halls understood the meaning of these words and rose to cheer for many minutes. The same stand was taken by President Dubinsky who informed the employers, when they charged a breach of the agreement, that he would do nothing since the members of the I.L.G.W.U. have the full right to refuse to work with scabs.

This attitude on the part of the leaders of the I.L.G.W.U. and the sympathetic action by the thousands of dress-makers and cloakmakers must be greeted by every progressive worker who has the interests of the labor movement at heart. It is one of the most encouraging signs of labor solidarity and labor militancy. With such spirit of militancy shown by the strikers and their supporters it is a foregone conclusion that they cannot lose.

A word must be said about the scandalous attitude of the Communist Party press. The *Daily Worker* and the *Jewish Daily Freiheit* have gone out of their way to lie and misinterpret developments in the strike. While the *Daily Worker* comes out one day and, by accident, truthfully reports the speech of Zimmerman and the enthusiasm of the strikers, the *Jewish Daily Freiheit* appears the same day with a lying and slanderous story to the effect that Zimmerman had told the strikers that support of their strike was impossible because of the existing agreement. A clear case where factional bias led the *Freiheit* to deny the favorable development of the strike.

Again the *Daily Worker* of September 5 says editorially:

"... For a week now union officials in the garment industry have beaten their chests and shed crocodile tears while making all sorts of promises to the shipping clerks. It remained for the workers without any orders from their officials, to turn these promises into action." (our emphasis).

The *Daily Worker* is here taking advantage of certain technical difficulties in connection with the walk-out of the garment workers, to lie about the support of the garment unions. They know very well that the only union that has been backward in its support is Truckmen's Union Local 102. Yet, the *Daily Worker* permits itself to lie about the situation.

Again the *Daily Worker* lies when it declares that "conferences are now going on in which the strikers are not participating." The *Daily Worker* knows very well that the only conferences that were held were those between the manufacturers and the I.L.G.W.U. over the walk-out of many thousands of workers. The bosses insisted that the dress and cloakmakers return to work and the union leaders insisted that they cannot do so since the manufacturers have failed to come to a settlement with the Shipping Clerks Union. Anyone who is in the slightest acquainted with the facts knows that this attitude has been of tremendous aid to the strikers.

For what purpose does the *Daily Worker* sow suspicion and dissension? Instead of hailing the attitude of the I.L.G.W.U., which is unique in the trade union movement, the *Daily Worker* continues its slander.

These outright lies can be of help neither to the strikers nor to the *Daily Worker* itself.

C. P. O. Convention Resolution On Seventh C. I. Congress

The resolution printed below, adopted by the Fifth National Convention of the Communist Party (Opposition), supplements the theses presented by the National Buro (printed in *Workers Age* of July 13, 1935). It brings up to date all evaluations and decisions of the C.P.O. in the light of the deliberations and actions of the Seventh Congress of the Communist International.

The Fifth National Convention of the Communist Party U.S.A. (Opposition) herewith adopts the following evaluation of the Seventh Congress on the basis of the material at hand to date in regard to its deliberations and decisions.

We propose this declaration to the Buro of the International Communist Opposition with a view of aiding in the adoption of a unanimously agreed upon final resolution by the International Communist Opposition and all its sections.

1. The Seventh World Congress marks the definite collapse of the ultra-left course of the Comintern. (Carried Unanimously)

2. While the ultra-left course has broken down completely, thanks to objective experience and the constructive criticism and activity of the I.C.O., it cannot be said that it has already been replaced by a correct line of strategy and

tactics. (Carried Unanimously)

3. The Seventh Congress has laid a basis for the adoption of the tactical and strategical course proposed and fought for by the I.C.O. in the following fields: a) trade unions; b) united front; c) so-called theory of exceptionalism; d) Farmer-Labor Party; e) discarding theory of third period and social-fascism; f) revolutionary transition slogans.

But it must be understood that to make a real new turn without at the same time recognizing and acknowledging the falsity of the old, is impossible. It is not at all a question of who was right, far more is it a question of winning the confidence of the workers in the genuineness of the change of policy. It is likewise a question of re-educating large sections of the Party membership, corrupted by years of preaching of the sectarian dogmas. Neither task can be accomplished unless it is frankly and clearly acknowledged that the old sectarian course has proved completely bankrupt and must be scrapped and replaced by more effective tactics. (Carried Unanimously)

4. The Congress has further adopted a resolution for the democratization of and the establishment of a more collective leadership in the C.I., in many respects along the

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EUROPE TODAY

By August Thalheimer

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

At the negotiations which resulted in the pact of Rome, France gave Italy a free hand in Ethiopia in order to check Italian imperialist designs in the eastern section of the Mediterranean. At the beginning England's policy was quite obviously the same. France dealt with Italy in the same manner that Bismarck had dealt with France after the war of 1870. Bismarck had encouraged and facilitated French colonial imperialist policy to keep France busy outside of Europe.

The strategy of France and England, as far as Italy was concerned, was the following. A conflict in the Balkan states would set Europe aflame immediately. Ethiopia is more remote, geographically speaking. A war in Ethiopia would therefore remain a "local" affair.

In this column we have consistently pointed out the falseness of this illusion. Today the shortsightedness and falseness of such a policy has become clear.

The Ethiopian conflict is of world-wide importance. In the first place, it again raises the problem of European colonial oppression of Africa as a whole and furthermore, the question of the oppressed "colored" people in the whole world. The Ethiopian conflict illustrates that native Africa is a powder keg ready to explode any moment as a result of the undermining of the authority of European supremacy in the colonies during the world war, as a result of the effect of the world crisis on Africa, and the existence of the Soviet Union. Secondly, the Ethiopian war raises the traditional life and death question of the British empire—the route to India is in danger. The English ruling class is menaced by 350,000,000 colored peoples. Thirdly, the Ethiopian conflict is indirectly affecting European politics—the problem of the domination of the Mediterranean, the colonial problem as raised by Germany, the opportunity given to Hitler Germany to attack Austria or to smash the clerico-fascist regime from the inside. Fourthly, the Ethiopian conflict again raises the Negro problem of the United States of America. All of which leads us to the following conclusions: Imperialist policy of today is both shortsighted and stupid. Imperialism today attempts to bridge one gap by creating another, to evade one conflict only to precipitate another. Secondly, the effects of the Ethiopian conflict point to the precarious objective condition of the imperialist world finds itself in. The tension is so great, the bases of the imperialist ruling clique so undermined that there can be no "local" wars any more, that an enterprise such as the Ethiopian war which 40 or 50 years ago could really have been a "local" war is today threatening to break down the entire rotten set-up of world imperialism.

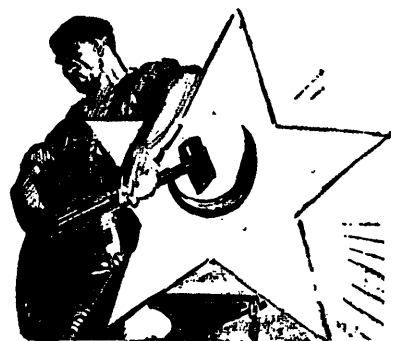
The negative wisdom with which imperialist policy is pursued is organically related to its objective condition. "Correct" imperialist policies are no longer possible. Whatever is done and however it is done, is wrong and leads to additional catastrophes. Imperialists have become stupid. A sure sign that the end is near.

ENGLAND PRETENDS IGNORANCE

England pretends that Mussolini is concealing his aims. This is not true. Mussolini has stated his aims very clearly. His aim is to turn Ethiopia into an Italian colony and he is attacking Ethiopia for that purpose.

England very nobly proposes to Mussolini to turn Ethiopia into an Italian colony without violence and without war, pointing to Egypt where England has technical and military "advisers." Mussolini, however, answers that he must first subdue Ethiopia in war. He is correct from the imperialist point of view because the British "advisers" in Egypt are the true rulers of the country only because England first conquered Egypt, because she keeps a constant corps of soldiers in Egypt and can, if necessary, concentrate her fleet at the coast of Egypt at any time. The noble English proposal is in reality an empty shell, a demagogic maneuver equal only to the maneuvers of Mussolini.

The English press, in its attempt to pretend naivete, represents Mussolini as a tyrant who refuses to accept a peace-



Books of the Age

By Bertram D. Wolfe

DICTATORSHIP AND DEMOCRACIES TODAY, by John Martin. Rollins Press, Winters Park, Fla. 225pp. \$2.50.

Take prematurely old, pre-war British Fabianism, transport it to Florida, paradise of the retired middle class, and have it comment upon fascism, communism and americanism and you get—this book.

John Martin claims to have known Engels—that is, he once met him. Back in the '90's he read Karl Marx, but quite evidently didn't understand what he was reading. He was chairman of the Labor Party in Hackney, and in 1899 came to America to lecture. It was love at first sight, the women's clubs fell in love with him and he with them; now he's an American citizen, a little better than 100%, and Professor of International Relations at Rollins University, Florida. He believes that the League, the World Court, the Kellogg Pact, are slowly leading us to a warless world; that it is nice of the United States to have "taken China under its benevolent protection for reasons which are not entirely clear" but if we want to avoid war with Japan we must limit ourselves to asking that "their exploitation of China shall be made with consideration for Chinese sensibilities and for the interests of other powers"; that with Japan behaving as it does "the United States cannot neglect home defense"; that Italy, Germany and Russia are three largely similar dictatorships driving the world toward war; that France, England, and especially the United States are three noble if bewildered democracies; that in America the police are "just friends"; that "you young people need not hunger after the flesh pots of Russia"; and finally, oh snake in paradise!—that an American "imagined leader" would preach Americanism, would promise "insurance against ruin thru enforced idleness," "sound body for every citizen," "a conscription of youth for labor in place of the European conscription for warfare," so that all the old folks might bask perpetually in Florida sunshine and hearken to the words of the sage of Philiistia.

WAS EUROPE A SUCCESS? by Joseph Wood Krutch. Farrar & Rhinehart. 88 pp. \$1.50.

Mr. Krutch's question makes no sense. What is Europe? Commonly, it is the continent occupied by and comprising France, Germany, Spain, Italy, part of the Soviet Union and other powers. Krutch, however, believes that this obvious fact, with all its important implications is purely secondary, and that Europe is that part of our experience occupied by, say Plato, Praxiteles, Horace, Rembrandt, Shakespeare, Newton, Beethoven and Proust—in short by a culture which continues from the Golden Days of Greece to the greasy days of gold.

"What was once only Athens became Greece, then the Mediterranean Basin, then all the Western part of the Continent." In the same easy style, Europe becomes Capitalism, bourgeois civilization becomes—not a culture, but Culture itself.

This undifferentiated and entirely imaginary continuity the author sums up in enumerating the high qualities of "... That European spirit which was born in Athens, rationalized in Rome and taken over by the Catholic church. ..." And yet Krutch vigorously objects to the "over-simplifications" of the Communists! What have these several different cultural and social systems in common? One thing: some form of class oppression.

But without class oppression—no "Culture"; without it no "humanity." "Humanity, as Europe knows it cannot be imagined apart from the social order which Europe has created, the sensibilities which European art has developed, and the realm of thought which Europe has set in order."

The Stuarts of England, the Bourbons of France, Calhoun of the slavery South and the Czar Nicholas II, could also not imagine their Europe ("humanity") without their social order, their aesthetes and artists, their philosophy.

It is clear that against such desocialized conceptions of history, of society, of culture, as the creation and possession of the ruling class, Communism and its concrete expression, the Soviet Union, must be set off as "the enemy."

The thesis which is presented in this book, then, is that the "radicals" and Communists are deliberately attempting to blow up the only worthwhile achievements of mankind. Every ally of the ruling clique speaks in the name of mankind. Every ally of the ruling clique speaks in the name of "mankind," for the defense of "culture," the "home," "womanhood," or what not, according to the kind of audience he wants to reach.

tion of Germany the second. The third blow which will be struck by the Ethiopian conflict will multiply the effects of the first two. One defeat of the League resulted in the others. The Soviet Union is correct in utilizing the smallest possibilities for preventing war or at least postponing their outbreak. The international working class however must realize that these possibilities are practically nil and that the force which alone can maintain peace is the independent revolutionary action of the working class.

All say the same thing but Krutch says it better. That much must be granted.

While he was writing his attacks on Marx and Communism on the basis of first-hand misinformation, the Nazis were torturing their opponents in jail and burning libraries, the English not long before had bombed defenseless Indian villages, the Japanese were seizing China and millions in Europe were more or less starving. Of these events, not one word by Krutch; but he can say that Communism means the "standardization of thoughts, opinions, tastes, desires"; that it would destroy "a sense of the reality, the worth and the sacredness of the individual . . ."; that, "Unless . . . some sense of the worth of the individual is retained, a soviet republic might often find nothing repulsive in the idea of sending thousands to die upon the battlefield, or thousands more to endless toil in mines and factories if, by so doing, it seemed to be benefitting in some way the community as a whole."

But this is exactly the picture of social order which cannot exist apart from the "Europe" Krutch is defending—with this difference: that thousands upon thousands of lives, of "sacred individuals" are sacrificed, not for the "community" as a whole but for the profit of a small ruling section of the "community." Mr. Krutch looks for imaginary ills abroad, and remains blind to the very real ones all about him. Such is the nature of that "detachment . . . one of those civilized luxuries the pursuit and indulgence in which constitute essential elements in that complex we call Europe."

There are many marvels of myopia such as "Governments . . . exist to preserve order and to promote human happiness," and "Wars and revolutions have been the price paid for failures to restore equilibria, and orderly transitions like that which England made when she grew into a democracy are the reward of intelligent concessions." These maxims might have been copied out of a high school civics textbook, but that is hardly the last word on the subject. Let Mr. Krutch read, now that he is graduated from high school, the various white books, blue books and other documents issued after the world war. That may give him a notion of what governments are for. Or let him read in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, under "Cromwell" or "English History" how terror and the army were used to effect the "orderly transition" from absolutism to parliamentary government.

The man who writes—"It has been suggested by Mr. Gerald Heard in his interesting volume of speculation 'The Ascent of Humanity' that man's development takes place neither in an ever-rising curve nor in a mere circle but in a kind of spiral" would not be seduced into discovering that Mr. Heard heard about it from the Marxists.

That is the kind of acquaintance Krutch has with Marxism, but this refusal to go to the sources does not prevent him from pronouncing judgment.

Krutch has no knowledge of economics—he admits it; of politics, he has notions of the kind set forth above; of society, he has only reactionary conceptions; of history, the accepted but unacceptable notions; of art, only the "cultured" aesthete's "sensibilities"; of science, hardly a trace; of philosophy, the same; of Communism, only ignorance fortified by prejudice. What then have "detachment," "intellectual honesty," "fair-mindedness," "individuality," "urbanity" to do with any question Krutch touches on?

We will allow Mr. Krutch to pass sentence on himself. "It may be suggested as a possibility that the most important, the most fundamental thing is rather the manner or the temper than the conclusions themselves." So much for the detachment, intellectual honesty and company. They are convenient covers under which Mr. Krutch, the ex-liberal, does battle for reaction.

Mac Stuart

SOUTHERN SKETCHES NO. 1—HINTON ROWAN HELPER, by Hugh Talmage Lefler. Historical Publishing Co. Charlottesville, Va. 45pp.

Despite an occasional parenthetical whiff of Southern prejudice, this is a scholarly, compact, comprehensive and picturesque biography of the mind of that most significant spokesman of the Southern poor whites, Hinton Rowan Helper. His stirring work, "The Impending Crisis" is skillfully summarized so that its moving language lives again in the summary.

A little too much space is given to Southern "refutations" (they riddled his biased counter-statistics, but for his burning hatred of slavery and the slavocracy they had no refutation). Rather too much is devoted to the subsequent decay of a mind great only for one issue, but even that is useful in revealing the true picture of the precursor of the Pitchfork Ben Tillmans, Bilbos, Tom Hefflins, Talmadges and Huey Longs that represent the degeneracy of the Southern poor white so long as he does not solve the problem of his proper relationship to the "emancipated" Negro.

Despite its brevity, this is a truly valuable and important pamphlet for the

TRADE UNION NOTES

CONVENTION APPROACHES

As the convention of the American Federation of Labor approaches it becomes clear that William Green and the clique around him are going to face some very serious difficulties. The apparent unity which existed on the surface of last year's convention is not to be repeated. It appears as if whatever latent problems were dividing the organized labor movement are due to come to the surface, much to Green's embarrassment.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

The last convention forced the opponents of vertical unionism to retreat and a motion was written into the records authorizing the mass production industries to organize along industrial lines. But where is that decision? What has happened to it? It has been torn to shreds by the rock-ribbed craft unionists without even a protest from Green who we are told "sympathizes with the vertical union supporters".

There is every reason to believe that the convention will want to know what has happened to that decision? Why did Green permit the flagrant violation of this convention of the auto workers to grant them a charter as an International Union. But even here not all auto crafts are included. Besides, it comes after a long period of stalling, when many workers have dropped out of the unions in disgust, when many federal locals are a mere shadow. The auto workers in convention in Detroit have shown what they think of Green and the Executive Council by delivering a well directed and resounding slap in the face to Green. He asked for the appointment of his lieutenant, Dillon, as President and the convention turned him down flat.

The auto workers, and other delegates to the convention will have something to say at the convention. Even such conservative organizations as the Mass. State Federation of Labor could not keep from passing a resolution for industrial unionism. There is no question in our minds but that a majority for industrial unionism could be secured if the locals were permitted to discuss and decide this matter in a democratic manner.

THE LABOR PARTY

Since the 1924 venture in supporting the candidacy of LaFollette over which, incidentally, the Executive Council still shudders, the A. F. of L. fell back heavily into the swamp of supporting the parties of capitalism. It is safe to say that this convention, much more so than last year, will hear numerous and strong voices for a Labor Party.

Such state conventions as Oregon and Ohio have gone on record for the organization of such a Party. Such central labor bodies as the Chicago Federation of Labor have not only gone on record but have actually organized a Labor Party. Hartford and a number of others have established official bodies to prepare for the organization of such parties. Add to that the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and others pledged to speak up for a Labor Party and one begins to appreciate the fact that the Labor Party question is not going to be downed so easily.

When such conservative leaders as Victor Olander, the head of the Illinois Federation of Labor, can conclude that the two old parties are giving labor the run-around and that a Labor Party is needed, then it will not be so easy to howl down the proponents of a Labor Party as a bunch of "foreign agitators" or "communists boring from within". . .

THE "RED MENACE"

In an attempt to smother all progressive action the bureaucracy will attempt at a very early stage, to blow up the "red menace" balloon to monstrous proportions. The recent exchange of notes between the U. S. and the Soviet Union is going to be of some assistance to these reactionaries. Nevertheless we must say now that there are an increasing number of trade unionists who are not easily taken in by the cry of "reds". The Furriers industry has proved that. Another example is that of the Teachers convention in Cleveland which took a position against a "pogrom" on the radicals in the New York local, thereby causing Green to intervene.* Still another example is the leadership of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which has taken a stand against discrimination for political convictions.

If the progressives are well organized at this convention these cries of "reds" should not disturb them. They should have no difficulties in branding these cries for what they are—attempts of the reactionaries to hold on to their leadership and their policies when the situation demands new policies and new leaders.

MILES

* Green's proposal was rejected by a vote of 100 to 79. The union is protesting Green's attitude as interference with its autonomous rights.

understanding of the Southern poor whites and the comprehension of the greatest spokesman they have so far produced.