

WORKERS AGE

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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New York, Saturday, September 21, 1935

Five Cents

At First GLANCE

By JAY LOVESTONE

WE have no use for the old Latin proverb providing for only good being spoken of the dead. Hence we will not waste a word or a syllable of praise or regret and will dissociate ourselves from the Communist Party organizer in New Orleans and Norman Thomas who so promptly mourned the death of the Louisiana "Kingfish." With the death of Huey Long there was laid low the most powerful symbol and instrument of incipient American fascism. The assassination of the individual Long, while momentarily slowing down the development of this ultra-reactionary movement, will not destroy its roots or source of nourishment. It will solve no social or economic problem, altho it certainly will muddy still more the already filthy political waters in this country.

Had Long recovered he would have been an infinitely more effective and dangerous demagogue than he ever was. In the 1936 elections Long would have posed and would have been looked upon by millions as a hero. As such, he could have dealt serious blows to F. D. R.'s reelection campaign. "Big Boss" Farley can now really talk of "Roosevelt luck." And the decrepit and obtuse Republican general staff will obviously have an even harder time of it in the 1936 presidential contest.

In the blaze of Dr. Weiss' death-dealing gun one very ugly feature of American capitalist politics comes to light before the entire world. This is the widespread resort to individual terrorism, to assassination as a decisive political argument. American history gives the lie to Roosevelt's boast that "the spirit of violence is un-American." The story of United States politics is replete with assassinations. The attack on Long was not happenstance. Such types of political discussions and solutions are organic to employing class rule and are a frequent expression of "rugged individualism." Page the roster of presidents, governors, and mayors murdered in the course of years by assassins owing loyalty to the same class—the exploiters—and not by revolutionists who abhor and reject individual terrorist acts and assassinations as weapons of liberation or as means of solving even the simplest social or economic problem.

FOR some time it has been evident that the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has sold out—lock, stock, and barrel—to the Democratic Party machine for the 1936 elections. Hence, we are compelled to consider as crude Roosevelt re-election propaganda the A. F. of L.'s latest economic estimate forecasting an upswing which will give us a 5-year peak in fall trade.

It is not improbable—for a number of reasons—that the next few months will produce some favorable trade statistics. Yet, only those entirely devoid of honesty or understanding would or could agree with the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. that "the present upswing is the healthiest thus far." This estimate is a travesty on truth. It overlooks entirely the feverish government pump-priming, the continued piling up of capital unused and unusable thru private initiative. President Green obviously doesn't begin to comprehend the sinister economic import of the continued, almost stabilized, army of no-occupation totalling eleven millions. In short, Green's prophecy is colored by his promise and pledge to help keep Roosevelt in the White House. Statistically, it is rooted only in the trend of bank clearings, stock and bond prices, dividend payments, and brokers' loans since Roosevelt bellowed into the national microphone harsh but empty words against the "money-changers" on his inauguration day. Indeed, even while waiting for their "breathing spell" the kingpins of big finance and heavy industry haven't done so badly at all.

But the Executive Council's report makes especially appropriate our pointing out of a fundamental and all-significant phase of the economic conditions and trends at hand. When the 1935 industrial statistics will be examined objectively, it will be found that production seriously exceeded demand and that this excess—unless absorbed by war—will be enough to slow down production in the coming year. We would be surprised if this decline of factory output would not set in even before this year is over. Particularly in recent months has the tendency for increased production being accompanied by a decreasing labor supply become marked. Barring international factors, the economic trend will be towards a set-back and decline and not higher peaks as Roosevelt's A. F. of L. campaigners would have us believe.

Shoe Convention For Merger

Unseat New York Delegates;
Motion To Recall Officers
Is Badly Defeated

BOSTON, Mass.—The Biennial Convention of the United Shoe & Leather Workers Union ended its deliberations Sunday, Sept. 15th, as over 130 delegates listened to greetings and reports on the progress of amalgamating the independent shoe unions in addresses delivered by John D. Nolan, President of the Shoe Workers' Protective Union, and John Murphy, President of the Brotherhood of Shoe and Allied Craftsmen.

The dominant current in the convention was the intense desire of the majority of the delegates to accept the recommendations of General Organizer I. Zimmerman for the strengthening of the Union, so as to hasten the impending amalgamation. Anything that showed itself to be detrimental to this progress was sent reeling to crushing defeat. This explains the crushing defeat which routed the New York delegation, which was refused seats. By a vote of 87 to 60 the New York delegation was refused seats. Not only their failure to remit thousands of dollars in per capita tax prompted this action, but once and for all time the union rid itself of the perpetual-motion machines of disruption, which had obstructed speedy conclusion of amalgamation.

General Organizer, I. Zimmerman, in his report to the Convention, mercilessly exposed the sources of inter-district strife which had led to wage reductions and urged the centralization of the organization: establishment of an Advisory Council and plan for the central direction of all agreements. "We cannot remain hermits in the labor movement. The success of amalgamating the independent unions is progress toward one union in the industry. After this forthcoming amalgamation, we must go on to the formation of one national union together with the Boot & Shoe, which will be part of the A. F. of L." he urged.

All recall plots against the G.E.B. were crushed. So badly whipped were the New Yorkers that they submitted a paper promising obedience to union rules and regulations in the future.

Teachers Score Splitting Tactics

NEW YORK, N. Y.—A mass meeting of 1,000 members of the Teachers Union listened to addresses by Reinhold Niebuhr of Union Theological Seminary, Mr. Fichandler, principal of James Monroe High School, Ben Davidson of the Progressive Group and Celia Lewis of the Rank and File group and adopted, almost unanimously, a resolution protesting against the splitting tactics of the Lefkowitz-Linville group in the union and pledged to stand by the decisions of the Cleveland convention of the American Federation of Teachers. Mr. Fichandler presided at the meeting.

Mr. Niebuhr said that he had been rather dubious about the work of the radicals in the Teachers Union but was convinced now that it is not they who are at fault in the present crisis in the union. Mr. Fichandler spoke of the great need of keeping the ranks of the union united and urged that all factions find some basis on which to get together again. Miss Lewis spoke, in some detail, on the developments at the convention of the union and Mr. Davidson considered the larger aspects of the crisis in the union. He pointed out that the protest against Green's interference in the inner life of the union approximates similar action by other organizations such as the auto workers. He spoke highly of the work of Lefkowitz in the early years of the Teachers Union but insisted that the responsibility for the present crisis rests upon Lefkowitz and Linville.

After the vote on the resolution had been taken a supporter of the Lefkowitz-Linville administration arose and insisted on an explanation of her negative vote. Mr. Hendley, a recently elected vice-president from New York, told the lady that she had her chance to explain in the Executive Board of the Teachers Union that very day. But she and the others who agreed with her refused to listen to reason and resigned from the Executive Board of the union and of the 15 that did so 12 resigned also from the union.

The resignations from the Executive Board have sharpened the crisis but it appears as if the United Committee is in no hurry to call for new elections in the union. The places vacated are left open. Mr. Hendley and Mr. Davis, the latter is secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers, are serving as the contact with the American Federation of Teachers.

LOUIS NELSON



Re-elected Manager of Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union

PROGRESSIVES SWEEP KNITGOODS ELECTION

Nelson Re-elected Manager With 82% Of The Votes; Entire
Progressive Slate For Officers Of The Three
Locals Elected With Big Majorities

The progressive administration of the Joint Council of Knitgoods Workers Union was reelected by overwhelming majorities in the general elections held by Locals 155 I.L.G.W.U. and 155 and 2085 U.T.W.A. on Thursday, September 12th 1935, in which 2,734 members voted. All of the progressive candidates for Manager and Business Agents of the Joint Council, for Local Chairmen and Executive Boards, and Local candidates for the Union's Sick and Relief Committee, were elected by huge majorities. The progressive candidate for Manager, Louis Nelson, was reelected by a vote totalling 1,881, amounting to 82 per cent of the valid ballots cast for that office. Morris Ezer, the opposition candidate for Manager, received 447 votes or about 18 per cent of the vote. The victory of the progressives was complete in each Local.

From every angle the election was conducted in a most democratic manner. This was admitted even by the opposition to the elected administration. The Election Objection Committee placed representatives of the tendencies on all of the election committees, watchers, etc.

Though our Union is only two years old and the mills in which our members are employed are scattered throughout Brooklyn, New York, and New Jersey, necessitating much travelling to the polling places, the workers manifested their interest in the elections by the number of votes cast. As soon as the results became officially known, Louis Nelson, the reelected Manager of the Joint Council, issued the following statement in the name of the progressive administration:

Statement of Louis Nelson

In the name of the administration of the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union I want to express profound gratification at the outcome of the Union elections just held. The number of workers participating in the elections is a definite manifestation of the active interest of the knitgoods workers in the affairs of our Union. This interest will stand us in good stead in the struggles ahead. The overwhelming majorities received by all of the progressive candidates are an eloquent sign that the knitgoods workers emphatically approve the past record of the progressive administration as well as their program for the future, and that they are determined to entrust the leadership of our Union in the hands of the progressive administration which has stood them in such good stead in the past. We take very seriously the responsibility placed upon us by the members of the Joint Council and shall devote all of our energy and endeavor to the carrying on of the struggle for the improvement of conditions for the knitgoods workers. It will now be our main effort to mobilize the knitgoods workers for a fight for the organization of the unorganized sections of the knitgoods industry and to prepare for an effective and victorious fight for a new agreement when the present one expires. It will be our task to mobilize the knitgoods workers to march forward to a shorter work week, to higher minimum wages, to unemployment insurance, to a victorious 1936 General Strike. The demonstration of confidence of the membership will strengthen our determination and fire our enthusiasm in leading the knitgoods workers of our Union along the road of militant struggle.

The voting and election arrangements went through in perfect order, thanks to the admirable tact and patience of the chairman of the Election and Objection Committee, Brother Louis Nelson. The reelected progressive administration of our Union, fully aware of the heavy responsibility falling upon it, pledges to do everything in its power to further unify our ranks and to join us in the working-class solidarity that is so imperative for victory in our struggles.

Shipping Clerks Win Demands

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Twelve thousand garment shipping clerks returned to work after a militant two weeks strike in which the whole garment industry was in turmoil due to the sympathetic walk-out of 25,000 dressmakers. The strike settlement secured for the shipping clerks a number of important concessions altho they were unable to win recognition of the union.

The settlement provides for the reinstatement of all strikers without discrimination, calls for a \$15 minimum for a 44 hour week. Payment for overtime is stipulated altho more than ten hours of overtime any one week is prohibited. A burr was set up to take any future disputes that may arise.

Strike leaders paid the highest tribute to the I.L.G.W.U. for its unstinting support and reports indicated that negotiations for affiliations to the I.L.G.W.U. were in progress. That the I.L.G.W.U. is favorably inclined to such affiliation became clear from the remarks of President Dubinsky who addressed 25,000 dressmakers in Madison Square Garden last Wednesday.

The strike settlement provides the Shipping Clerk's union with an excellent base for the extension and strengthening of the union and for the further improvement of the conditions of the garment clerks.

Coal Strike Postponed Again

For the fifth time in succession John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, has called off the threatened strike of the soft coal miners. The miners are now operating without an agreement, the old one having expired Monday morning.

Many weeks have been spent in negotiations with the mine owners for higher scale and cuts in working time but the operators have remained adamant. When it became clear that no agreement could be reached before the contract expired, the government intervened thru the person of Edward F. McGrady. He proposed to both parties that the old agreement be extended another two weeks and any wage scale decided upon shall be retroactive for these two weeks. Even this proposal was flatly rejected by the arrogant and bloated coal barons. Once again Lewis compromised by postponing the strike for one week.

It must be stated that previous four postponements have gone a long way to create the impression of weakness on the part of the union and the operators are taking full advantage.

Dress Industry at Standstill As Workers Demonstrate

Madison Square Garden Jammed And Thousands Blocked
Surrounding Streets In Answer To Joint Board
Call For Mobilization For New Agreement

Sixty-five thousand members of the Joint Board of Dressmakers Union jammed Madison Square Garden and streets around it on Wednesday afternoon, September 11th, in celebration of the great victory of 1933 and as a mobilization and a demonstration of strength for the coming struggle in 1936.

Inside the hall were large banners carrying the slogans: "100,000 STRONG, EVERYONE A FIGHTER", "WE WILL CIVILIZE THE JOBBERS YET", "WE CELEBRATE 1933,—WE PREPARE FOR 1936", "WHEN WE STRIKE WE

WIN—WHAT WE WIN WE ENFORCE".

In front of the hall there was a tremendous red flag carrying a chain of four links, representing the four locals affiliated to the Joint Board. The platform was bedecked with flowers of greetings from groups of workers in the shops. Telegrams of greetings were received from six hundred groups of workers, shops, and labor organizations.

After the singing of the Dressmakers Victory Song and the International, Philip Kapp introduced Charles S. Zimmerman, Manager of Local 22, who was chairman of the meeting, who was received with great applause. "This mobilization," said Zimmerman, "is only beginning to show the manufacturers that we are ready to go to battle to maintain our conditions and improve them. When we had the last mass meeting, many people wondered whether it was the union that would get conditions for the workers or the NRA. We said that it was the dressmakers on the picket line that could win conditions, and we maintained that it was only the dressmakers union that would be able to enforce those conditions, and no one else. It is the long arm of the union, of the organized might of the dressmakers, that will get the chisellers wherever they are to be found."

Zimmerman characterized the meeting as a "dress rehearsal for our coming struggle." He ended with a challenge to the bosses: "Yes, let the employers know that our army is mighty, our army is disciplined, our army is ready."

Among the speakers were Samuel Perlmutter, Manager of Local 10, Max Cohen, Manager of Local 60, and Luigi Antonini, Manager of Local 89. Julius Hochman, Manager of the Joint Board, outlined the main points in the coming struggles: 30 hour week limitation of contractors, settling of prices on the jobbers' premises, and the unit system of price settlement. This program, point by point, was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the audience.

David Dubinsky, President of the I.L.G.W.U., scored those who had proposed full reliance on NRA to the exclusion of the need for strengthening the trade unions. The results he said has proven that the union is the only guarantee that the workers have.

Japan Plans Further Raids

Hardly has Japan succeeded in swallowing Manchukuo than it is already casting its eye on other sections of China and it is well known that where the eye of Japanese imperialism falls there its army begins to march.

In a recent statement by Major Gen. Rensuke Isogai, military attache of the Japanese Embassy in China, he frankly unfolded Japan's aims in the direction of taking over most of China. Discussing the recent victories of the Soviet provinces he declared that Japan was now willing to undertake military action against the Soviet areas which threaten the existence of Manchukuo as a Japanese vassal.

Never in the history of capitalist diplomacy has there been seen such cynical frankness as in the statement of Isogai. "There are other organizations in China" said this Japanese militarist, "and even individuals maybe, who must necessarily be exterminated before it is possible to meet the problem of Communism." This is being interpreted as a direct threat to nationalist forces in China which have bitterly resented Chiang Kai-shek's policy of compromise with Japan.

It is with these statements that Japan announces to the whole world that it is contemplating further raids into China and that this is to be undertaken under the excuse that the government of Chiang Kai-shek is endangering Japanese interests by his unwillingness to destroy the Communist movement and the Soviet areas.

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C. P. Talks Labor Party But Supports Republicans

The Daily Worker of September 9, 1935 contains the following significant item:

"PASSAIC, N. J., Sept. 8.—At a mass meeting of the Passaic Council Labor Party Friday night, the executive board of the Labor Party announced that it will not run any candidates against the so-called labor candidates running in this year's elections. This included the withdrawal of Charles Vigorito for Mayor. . . . The Labor Party feels that by taking this stand it will be able to solidify labor's votes and do away with the friction that would have been created if Mr. Vigorito would have run against his brother Paul, who is also a member of the Dyers Union, and other candidates would have been nominated against the other Labor Party men. The Communist Party announced that it will not put up any slate in this election and is endorsing the Labor Party candidates. . . ."

To make the matter perfectly clear it is only necessary to add two pieces of information: first, that the Labor Party in question is under the control of the C.P., and, secondly, that Paul Vigorito, in whose favor the Labor Party can-

didate is withdrawing, is running on the Republican ticket!

Such is the rapid "progress" the official Communist movement is making from crass sectarianism to outright opportunism! At first, in the gaudy days of the "third period" the very idea of the Labor Party was banned as an "instrument of American imperialism" which only "renegades" could support. Then came the first "new turn" and Browder brought back with him the Labor Party "from below," a Labor Party neither "revolutionary" nor "reformist," a Labor Party without labor. This was followed very rapidly by a new gospel of the Labor Party, as the "people's front" in America.

And now, finally we have the virtual liquidation of the Labor Party policy from the right—the withdrawal of Labor Party candidates in favor of the Republican candidates on the ground that the latter are "labor" men, members of unions! Thus the C.P. finds itself advocating in practice the old and discredited Gompers-Green "non-partisan" policy of "reward your friends and punish your enemies."

Such are the fruits of the new opportunism.

THE RISE AND FALL OF DUAL UNIONISM

(Continued from Page 3)

ly how far the turn did actually go at this early date. Work in the old unions was again on the order of the day but work with what end and purpose? No attempt was made to disguise the fact that the undermining, disruption and destruction of the old unions for the benefit of the rival Red sects, was still the guiding aim of Communist Party in the trade unions. "Revolutionary workers," ran an official declaration in the Daily Worker of August 19, 1930, "must carry on their activities within the A. F. of L. for the building of the revolutionary trade unions." "The work of our organized groups in the reformist unions," Foster informed the party a few months later (The Communist, October, 1930), "is subordinated to the building of the revolutionary unions. It is orientated upon getting these trade union workers under the ideological leadership of the T.U.U.L. and, as soon as practicable, into mass affiliation with it." And it should be remembered that Lozovsky's "shouting from the housetops" about smashing the reformist unions came at the beginning of 1932.

It would serve no purpose to attempt to give a detailed analysis of every twist and turn accompanying the decay of ultra-leftism. Nor indeed could any stereotyped scheme be devised to fit all cases. It is only necessary to indicate a few characteristic features to bring home the main point I am trying to make here—that the sectarian course did not go to pieces suddenly and all at once, that it had always borne within itself the seeds of its own destruction, developing in a contradictory manner from the very outset of its career.

THE PERIOD OF UNITED FRONT

Once C.P. groups had been established in the old unions, usually called "left" or "rank and file" groups, a strategic line began to be worked out for them in order to provide them with elbow room in which to maneuver to promote their destructive aims. At first, the "left" groups, under the theory of "independent leadership," would cooperate (in the form of "mixed" committees) with the Red unions in the field, even tho, or rather just because, this meant disloyalty and sometimes serious damage to the organizations of which they were members. This stage was reflected in the original structure of the T.U.U.L., which combined dual unions and opposition groups in the same bodies. But very soon, a change took place. The "left" groups began calling upon the old unions to enter into "united fronts" with the Red unions in economic struggles and strikes. Of course, here too the object was the same—to destroy the power and prestige

of the A. F. of L. unions as the authoritative representatives of the workers on the economic field, to degrade them to the status of being merely one of many organizations on the same level. But however that may be, the maneuver implied the surrender of one of the most cherished dogmas of the "third period," the conception of the old unions as Fascist organizations or company unions. For it is surely to be presumed that so revolutionary an organization as the T.U.U.L. would never have urged a united front with a company union! It is not difficult to realize how devastating was the blow thus dealt to the whole ultra-left system which was essentially built on the dogma thus repudiated.

THE INDEPENDENT FEDERATION OF LABOR

After this point was reached, developments came thick and fast. It became no longer necessary for "left" groups or even dual unions to be formally affiliated with the T.U.U.L., altho, of course, they remained just as effectively under the control of the C.P. The old morale and self-confidence of the "third period" sectarianism were irrevocably gone. No longer did it march forward proudly with banners flying; it was now reduced to slinking along under camouflage, hoping against hope that its wrecking activities would not be recognized for what they were. Before long the desperate plight of the T.U.U.L. forced itself into recognition and a way out simply had to be found. It was at this time (1933) that, as a phase of the revival of unionism, a considerable number of "independent" (non-A. F. of L.) unions began to make their appearance in various parts of the country. In most cases, of course, their "independence" was a sign of their immaturity and utter backwardness but in them the C.P. thought it saw its salvation, some way of salvaging the wreckage of dual unionism. And so that inglorious adventure of the "Independent Federation of Labor" was launched, characteristically enough in alliance with the Musteites who never seemed to know one day what the next would bring. The absurd conference at Cleveland (August 1933) constituted at one and the same time the burial services over the decomposing corpse of the T.U.U.L., the consummation of the (very temporary) alliance between the C.P. and the C.P.L.A. and the public debut of the new "Independent Federation of Labor." The farcical character of the gathering and its deliberations showed how little vitality there was left to dual unionism in any form whatever in this country.

"SLOGAN RETAINED BUT . . ."

The "Independent Federation of Labor,"

projected as an unprincipled combination of the extreme left (the T.U.U.L. unions) and the extreme right (the "independent" unions, some of them still showing traces of the company union ideology) against the A. F. of L., was a monstrous abortion, dead before it was born. The stormy resurgence of the A. F. of L. left no hope whatever for it. In a sickly way, it dragged on in the columns of the Daily Worker and Freiheit but, by the end of 1934, Jack Stachel was ready to declare in a report to the political bureau of the central committee of the C.P. that "altho we retain the slogan (of the 'Independent Federation of Labor'), we cannot use it immediately" (The Communist, November 1934). In other words, it was put away in cold storage for utilization under more auspicious circumstances!

It is of significance to note that, in this very report, Stachel still upheld with a great show of vigor the basic ideology of dual unionism, with special emphasis on the policy of "independent leadership"—but now justified by ridiculous appeals to trade union unity! "The fight for class trade union unity," it was discovered, ". . . in itself implies . . . the organization of the economic struggle over the heads of the leaders—what we term, INDEPENDENT LEADERSHIP" (emphasis in original).

LIQUIDATION OF
RED UNIONS

With the shelving of the "Independent Federation of Labor," the systematic liquidation of the Red unions began. Hesitating retreat, covered with bluff and bombast, gave way to complete rout. One after the other, the dual organizations were officially dissolved, after most of them had already ceased to exist in fact. Some delay was occasioned here and there by face-saving maneuvers ("conferences," "terms," etc.) on the part of the Red unions but these were merely the last spasms before ignominious death. With the dissolution of the dual furriers and knitgoods unions, the dismal and disgraceful period of outright dual unionism, stretching from 1923 to 1935, may be said to have reached its end.

Of course, the T.U.U.L. too had to go into discard. This ill-fated organization, born amidst such fanfare in the heat of the "third period" in 1929, received its official burial in the most inglorious manner only a few months ago, giving way to a ghost-like monstrosity called the "Joint Unity Committee of Independent Trade Unions of Greater New York and Vicinity." But no one takes this miserable receiver of a few bankrupt concerns seriously today, least of all the Communist Party!

This bare outline sketch of the decline and fall of the sectarian trade union course naturally refers to American developments at every point. But a similar sketch, substantially identical in content tho certainly different in form, would emerge from the events in Germany (up to the triumph of Hitler) or Great Britain or France or Czechoslovakia in the same period. For it is important to recognize that, just as the

Books of the Age

By Bertram D. Wolfe

THE INTELLIGENTSIA OF GREAT BRITAIN, by Dmitri Mirsky. Gollancz. London. 237pp. 6s.

This work is a series of essays by Mirsky written in Russian to acquaint the Soviet Union with the present state of the British intelligentsia, and subsequently translated into English.

The book contains many clever, even brilliant generalizations on British thought and its leading spokesmen, the Fabians, Shaw, Wells, Chesterton, Keynes, Russell, the Bloomsbury group, the liberal churchmen, Eddington, Jeans, etc. But most of the discussions are flashy, fragmentary and arbitrary, take too much for granted and make no serious attempt to convince the unconvinced English-speaking reader.

Ex-prince Mirsky who began to doubt his counter-revolutionary position during the British General Strike of 1926 and was "confirmed in Communism by the events of 1929" (from his autobiographical note) is tremendously scornful of all those intellectuals who did not begin to move left till 1931 and 32. At most of them he snaps the epithet of "social fascist" (how quickly books begin to age that were written on the basis of the party line of 1929 to 35!) and mistakes their reluctance and theoretical confusion for cleverly thought out, diabolically cunning plots to mislead the masses. The book terminates in an anti-climax, a chapter entitled "The Intelligentsia and Communism," which devotes itself primarily to the task of annihilating Middleton Murry—like using a trip hammer to crack a peanut! The only other intellectuals treated in the chapter are John Strachey, who is praised, and A. L. Rowse who, according to Mirsky, is interested in leading "young people the labour party way towards fascism." A few months later, the British Communist Party under the leadership of the Communist International decides to lead the entire British working class thru "the labour party way" towards Communism! A sorry trick to play on Mirsky! Of course, the I.L.P. is "left social fascist" which Mirsky "proves" by only one "telling" shot, namely, "It was only at its

1932 conference—mark well the date!—that it recognized Marxism as its official doctrine." Thus does Mirsky greet a belated, confused, leftward movement with a blow on the head!

The best thing in the book is a quotation from Engels concerning the Fabians. It is worth reprinting: "An ambitious group here in London who have understanding enough to realize the inevitability of the social revolution, but who could not possibly entrust this gigantic task to the rough proletariat alone and are therefore kind enough to set themselves at its head. Fear of the revolution is their fundamental principle."

The parts of Mirsky's book that are written in the spirit of that quotation, are well worth reading. The rest of the work is to be chalked up as one more piece of wreckage due to the sectarian line adopted by the Comintern at the moment when Prince Mirsky was going over to Communism.

CHILDREN OF MEXICO. By Richard and Landazuri, San Francisco, Harr Wagner Publishing Co., 1935. 323pp.

This is a book about Mexico intended as a "reader" for American children. It is written very simply and covers the most important historical and geographical facts about our southern neighbor. Several chapters are devoted to the customs and traditions of the Aztec Indians who ruled Mexico before the Spanish conquest. A few scattered paragraphs berate, very gently to be sure, the foreigner who comes to exploit the Mexicans, and scolds the Americans for having robbed Mexico of so much territory and for having made war upon it.

The book is profusely illustrated with photographs of Aztec civilization, beautiful modern scenes of Mexico and reproductions of two of Diego Rivera's frescoes—one depicting the search of a miner as he comes up from below and the other, the rural schools of Mexico.

E.G.W.

CLASS STRUGGLE vs. PEOPLE'S FRONT

(Continued from Page 2)

ed were not much better. Here are some: "For democratic rights, for the disarming and dissolution of fascist leagues; wrest the control of the state from the economic feudal lords; for the organization of peace and for simultaneous, progressive and controlled disarmament; bread for all; restore the fruit of his labor to the peasant; work for youth; for the destruction of all Bastilles; youth wants work, peace and freedom!"

CLASS STRUGGLE OR PEOPLE'S FRONT

One might object that the slogans are not as decisive a factor as the opportunity of penetrating the Radical Socialist masses. But the formulation of slogans is precisely the means which are to bring Communism to the masses which march behind the Radical Socialist party. The advantage of such an alliance rests with the Radicals. The alliance does not prevent them from endorsing the emergency decrees. But the alliance does prevent Communists and Socialists from attacking with the necessary vigor and sharpness the policy of issuing emergency decrees.

Herriot the leader of the party and minister in Laval's cabinet has everything to gain from such an agreement. The perspectives for the Peoples Front are quite clear. If the "Peoples Front" is to be preserved the CP will be forced to give up any real mass fight against the emergency decrees. The consequence will be the complete discrediting of the parties forming the Peoples Front and "democratic rights" in the eyes of the working class. The other alternative is for the CPF aggressively to fight for a mass struggle against the decrees. That will mean the end of the Peoples Front. This in turn will weaken the feeling of strength among the masses who have been taught to believe that a militant alliance against fascism has been formed and who now see the bubble burst. This will not tend to encourage them to start the fight on a new basis. The disappointment of the masses will aid the fascists, and valuable time shall have been lost in which a genuine, militant alliance between the working class and the petty bourgeoisie could have been built.

(To be concluded in next issue of
Workers Age)

ultra-left line did not arise spontaneously but was forced upon the various parties by the Stalinist leadership of the Comintern, so were the various steps in its disintegration not taken spontaneously but always upon the advice and consent and almost always upon the initiative, of the Communist International. The decay of sectarianism, like its rise and expansion, is an international phenomenon!

TRADE UNION NOTES

MECHANICAL REPETITION

The Daily Worker of September 7 announces the opening of the convention of the United Shoe Workers Union and then goes on to say:

"At the same time delegates to the convention have indicated their determination to institute a 'house-cleaning' of the union leadership, headed by the Lovestoneite, I. Zimmerman, which has resulted in disruption within the union and is an inadequate answer being given to the wage-cutting drive of the employers."

And the Daily Worker of September 9 announces the liquidation of the Independent Knitgoods Workers Industrial Union (The Daily Worker prefers to call it merger) and goes on to say:

"At the same time the Rank and File Group pointed out that it was necessary to carry on a fight to wrest the control of the union from the hands of the Lovestoneite 'progressive' group, whose policy of giving concessions to the bosses has resulted in the failure to enforce the thirty-five hour week."

So writes the Communist Party after a period of six years of union smashing which made it an outcast in the eyes of every trade unionist, so writes the Communist Party after the numerous "victory" banquets marking the collapse and liquidation of its dual industrial unions, so writes the Communist Party which, according to the Seventh Comintern Congress, is supposed to have learned something from its disastrous errors of the past.

It is safe to say that as long as their vision is factionally blinded to the point where their main task becomes the destruction of these constructive and militant forces, just so long will they fail to impress anyone with the seriousness of their change of heart on the trade union field.

REDRESS OF GRIEVANCE

The press reports that the Federal Trade Commission intervened to prevent the A. F. of L. Committee for Unemployment Insurance (a C.P. auxiliary) from using the name of "A. F. of L. Rank and File Federationist." This action was taken upon request of the American Federation of Labor.

Needless to say, the A. F. of L. took these steps in order to dramatize the opposition of the Executive Council to the policies of that Committee which became, after the liquidation of the TUUL, the sole medium for coordinating the trade union work of the C.P. in the A. F. of L. One need hardly take seriously the claim that the closeness of the name to that of the A. F. of L. publication (American Federationist) was the cause of confusion and loss of business.

As for the C.P., the masquerading as an A. F. of L. body was very essential when it was most isolated from the A. F. of L. thru its own policies. When and if they really become a significant force in the A. F. of L. there will be no cause to resort to such questionable methods.

PEACE IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY

You may have heard that a peace pact was signed between the "Old Guard" and the "Militants" some time ago and naive Socialists actually kidded themselves about the supposed unity which the S.P. was now to enjoy. Came the struggle in Teachers Union to prove that at the very moment when socialists take a militant stand against bureaucracy and for progressive unionism, at that moment party unity is destroyed.

On the one hand we have Linville, president of the New York teachers, assisted and supported by the New Leader and the "Old Guard" and on the other side you have, among other progressive forces, such Socialists as Maynard Krueger and Hendley who made a praiseworthy fight for progressive unionism, even in the face of the opposition of William Green.

It is a peculiar kind of political unity which permits the sharpest kind of struggle between Socialists in the same union. It is a peculiar type of unity which permits one Socialist paper (New Leader) to support the union smashing policies of Linville-Lerkowitz and another socialist paper (Socialist Call) to second the efforts for democratic and progressive unionism.

CORRECTION

In discussing the Chicago Labor Party this column created two incorrect impressions. First, that Olander of the Illinois Federation of Labor and Fitzpatrick of the Chicago Federation of Labor had endorsed the Labor Party and second, that the Labor Party was organized by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

G. F. MILES

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