

# WORKERS AGE

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. IV, No. 39.

New York, N. Y., Saturday, October 5, 1935.

Five Cents

## At First GLANCE

By JAY LOVESTONE

IN this country we are woefully short of alert and critical progressive journals. We have hopes that *The American Spectator* in its new form will help meet this need. From the contents of its first issue, one assumes that we will have an interesting and effective political monthly. We are especially indebted to it for the article "Wage Slavery in New England" by John Lowell. Its findings are a challenge to the leadership of the big needle trades unions to intensify their struggle against intolerable working conditions.

The article on "All the News Printed to 'Fit,'" is a real piece of research and a contribution to the study of the proudest specimen of American journalism. Turning the searchlight on the New York Times' evaluation of Lenin over a period of years, the author George Simpson, reveals to us some startling facts. We cite here but one of the many gems dug up by the author. It is from none other than M. J. Olgin, now editor of the *Freiheit*. At the close of 1917, Olgin as an expert on Lenin for the New York Times wrote the following:

"Lenin's program . . . is in keeping with his general political conceptions. It follows the line of least resistance. It formulates things that can easily be grasped by an untrained mind. It throws out a bait to attract the mob. At the same time it avoids touching upon the most vital problems. It would seem that Lenin's 'radicalism' only blocks the road of the Russian Revolution by calling forth a reaction and by adding to the disorganization of a country shaken to its foundations. Here, as ever, Lenin's tactics, seemingly extreme, are in reality weakening the strength of democratic Russia. Lenin is a man who sees life only from the angle of his own ideas."

Apparently, time has been of great help to Comrade Olgin. In the light of this it is very easy to understand why today Olgin is feverishly trying to be holier than the Pope himself.

At this moment it is very difficult for any one to set the exact day and hour when the first shot will be fired on the African front. Likewise, it is impossible to-day to indicate definitely how soon the Italian imperialists' attack on Ethiopia will be transformed into a world war. However, two items buried in the financial columns of our daily press are of sinister significance as indices of the rapidity with which the events are moving these days towards a new world war.

Scrap steel exports from the U. S. to Japan have risen 800 per cent. in the last thirty months. No doubt some of this material will be returned to the Americans in the not distant future in the wounds inflicted through shrapnel. Scrap steel exports to Italy from the U. S., according to figures compiled by the American Iron and Steel Institute, have increased by 450 per cent. In general, the sale of scrap steel by the U. S. within the last two and a half years is double the total of the preceding eight years.

The other index we have in mind is to be found in the huge increase of foreign funds seeking haven in the American investment market. These funds are coming to the U. S., to Wall Street, mostly via London and are thoroughly international in character. That is, the bourgeoisie of practically every European capitalist country is well represented among the exporters. The vast increase in gold imports by the U. S. is to be attributed primarily to fear of war on the part of European capitalists.

Let no one make the mistake of thinking that the rapid piling up of mountains of gold in the U. S. is a sign of any real strength of American capitalism or that this will prove a factor for even momentary stabilization in the U. S. The very opposite is the case. The U. S. is already economically choking because of the plethora of unused and unusable capital. The augmentation of this fund can only insure further and more serious complications. Besides, at a moment's notice European investors for sundry reasons may suddenly begin to withdraw their funds from the U. S. and thus generate another force for precipitating a crash on the stock market of such grave dimensions as to bring serious disruption in industry and exchange. It would be well not to forget the influence of just this factor in the 1929 stock market crash. History does repeat itself ever more painfully, especially in the realm of capitalist crises.

## WAR FINDS AN ALLY



Efimov in Moscow Pravda

## Relief Chiefs Make Discovery

There is no keeping a secret from Harry Hopkins and his bright lads in Washington. Perplexed by the problem of increased production without a simultaneous increase in the number of employed—a direct contradiction to their more business less unemployment formula—Mr. Aubrey Williams, right hand man of Harry L. Hopkins has at last discovered what is common knowledge to every thinking person, namely, that it is due to "increased efficiency which permits employers to produce more goods than before with fewer men."

The solution proposed by Mr. Williams illustrates what a blind alley our present system is in. He thinks that an appeal to the employers' instinct of charity might result in increased employment of labor. "Unless," he says, "industry is willing to adopt deliberately a policy of sharing increased business with workers there is not much hope of the workers getting anything out of a business pick-up."

Since American industry is not run exactly along charitable lines the prospects for over ten million unemployed, entering upon the seventh winter of crisis, is black indeed.

With the whole Roosevelt bureaucracy shouting "things are getting better" no one was more surprised than the relief bureaucracy itself to discover that unemployment has not decreased but on the contrary it has increased.

Says Mr. Williams, Assistant Relief Administrator, "Business absorbs new business without increasing employment. They get a dividend out of it but no new jobs are created. . . . Even the National Industrial Conference Board says there is more unemployment now than a year ago."

Nevertheless the relief rolls are shrinking because "we have become pretty darned hard-boiled on relief. We've reduced expenditures almost 100 per cent since June." So says Aubrey Williams who wants the employers to be less hard-boiled by hiring more workers than they need.

## Mooney Fights For Freedom

Once again, after nineteen years of imprisonment Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings are in court hurling the charge of frame-up against the judicial system of capitalism.

Little, if anything can be expected from the hearings now going on before referee Shaw but the significance is the exhaustion of state avenues and the opening of the door for a final appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

We are sure that every class-conscious worker sees the importance of this move and will do everything in his or her power to help financially and otherwise to make this final effort to liberate America's most famous political prisoners Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings.

## We Are Still at 51 W. 14th St.

Last week we announced that the *Workers Age* and the *New Workers School* were moving to new headquarters. We thought we were. Terms had been agreed upon, and the lease drawn.

Then at the moment of signing, the Men-Higher-Up discovered that the Rivera mural series "Portrait of America" was moving to their Building. THE MEN-HIGHER-UP WERE, IT TURNED OUT, THE ALL-PERVADING ROCKEFELLER INTERESTS. And when a Rockefeller hears of a Rivera mural he gets the Red jitters and begins to look under his bed for bombs.

That's why we must delay our moving. In a way we're glad. We don't like the Rockefellers as landlords any more than they like Rivera as a tenant. Watch for our next announcement.

## EXPECT WAR IN TEN DAYS

### Memel Election Campaign Shows Nazi Drive Eastward

The elections to the Memel Diet, which have assumed the significance of a national plebiscite, have been extended for another day because of the complicated balloting which made possible the participation of only 60% of the electorate during the first day of voting.

Disorders are widespread and charges of falsification are flying thick and fast. Clashes between Nazis and Lithuanians have occurred and several have been killed. The Nazis who received over 80% of the vote in 1932 are claiming an even more sweeping victory in this election while the Lithuanians insist that Nazi sentiment has declined and claim at least 25% of the vote.

The election is being watched with great interest in all the capitals of Europe. In Berlin the vote is expected to add strength to Nazi demands for the return of Memel to Germany. In Great Britain, France and Italy, who had warned the Nazis against any interference in the election, the result may indicate new international complications. In Moscow the results are being awaited with great uneasiness for Memel is practically at the front door of the Soviet Union and Nazi designs upon Russia are well known.

Slowly but surely Hitler is developing his immediate program calling for the return of all of Germany's colonies.

### C.I. Resolution on Fascism Shows Dangerous Omissions

By AUGUST THALHEIMER

The full text of the resolution on Dimitroff's report has now been published. In comparison with the report, the resolution is an improvement on several points tho it still contains a number of serious shortcomings which may have dangerous consequences unless they are corrected.

It recognizes the "temporary defeat of the proletariat in Central Europe." The belated official acknowledgment of this fact is a step of progress inasmuch as it presupposes the necessity of learning from the defeat.

#### WHAT IS FASCISM,

Fascism is defined in two different ways: once correctly as a peculiar form of the dictatorship of finance capital as a whole. Secondly, incorrectly, as the "open terrorist dictatorship of the most chauvinist and most imperialist elements of finance capital." The second definition leads to the conclusion that there are less chauvinist, imperialist elements of finance capital who are opposed to the fascist dictatorship. In fact, there have been various remarks in the press of the Communist Party of Germany to the effect that sections of the bourgeoisie may want to be rid of the fascist dictatorship. The German Social-Democracy is noted for its reliance upon the anti-fascist action of the Reichswehr, of the top bureaucracy and a section of the capitalist class. It is therefore necessary to meet such deviations and confusion with an unequivocal and clear definition of the fascist dictatorship.

The fact that the resolution warns "against dangerous illusions that fascism will collapse automatically" is not accidental. These illusions were very widespread in the Communist Parties, and they are closely related to the theory of the "third period."

The resolution correctly states that the united front movement is still "in the very first stages of development." It goes on to say that in France "the first advances of fascism have been defeated." This substantiates the widespread notion among the French working class and the French C.P. that fascism in France has been decisively defeated and repelled. On the other hand, one can interpret this to mean that the present stage of the united front struggle in France is not as yet completed but merely a beginning.

#### THE UNITED FRONT

The resolution lacks a concrete analysis of the weaknesses and errors of the united front tactics in France. Such an analysis becomes all the more necessary in view of the fact that the united front in France has become the international model of united fronts. The warning against mechanical transference of tactics from one country to another as con-

tained in the resolution on the report of the ECCI, was not applied as the discussions of the 7th World Congress have clearly shown. The guarantee against such mechanical transference is a thoro criticism of the experiences and practice of the united front in France by the International. Only such a thoro examination of the question will make for a non-mechanical generalization of the experiences of France to all countries. There has as yet been no adequate discussion of the French united front.

The resolution states that the establishment of the united front will be "the most important immediate task of the international working class in the present historical epoch."

#### UNITED FRONT AND SEIZURE OF POWER

After seven years of the ultra-left course, after the heavy defeats of the working class in Germany and Austria which were closely tied up with the failure to apply the united front it was undoubtedly necessary to emphatically point out the fundamental significance of the united front as a turn to the reformist organizations. If, however, the tactical turn on the united front question is not to lead to serious opportunist errors, the CI must at the same time determine the limits and the aim of the united front. A Congress of the CI does

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### Nazis Murder C.P.O. Leader

Inside of a year the Leipzig organization of the CPG (Opposition) has to mourn a second victim through death in its ranks. Within this year comrade Heinrich Plaas was brutally murdered in the Leipzig police prison.

We are informed that on August 23, 1935, Comrade Anna Schumann, functionary of the German Communist Opposition died in the Waldheim prison. Comrade Schumann was a veteran of the Leipzig labor movement. She was active in the days of August Bebel and Liebknecht and then she first took her place amongst the front-rank fighters for socialism. Soon she became most active in the building of a left-wing in the German labor movement. During and after the war, she took the road leading to Communism and became a Communist representative in the Leipzig Municipal Council. In 1929 she lined up with the opposition to fight against the sectarian course of the Comintern. The numerous arrests in her active career did not break her physically or spiritually. Because of her age, the Nazis offered her freedom if she were to retire from the class struggle. She turned down this offer with contempt. On August 23rd, the Nazis followed up this offer with an announcement by the Gestapo that Anna Schumann has just died.

Immediately after her death, the Gestapo began to persecute her family. A few days after her burial her niece, a mother of four children, was immediately arrested and put into the same cell in which Comrade Schumann was murdered. This was done to torture her family still more brutally. The CPG (Opposition) appeals to the international working class to rally to the support of the fighters against Hitler's barbarianism and to render immediate real assistance to the victims of the Nazi terror.

### Ethiopia Mobilizing Nation For War—War Expected Within Ten Days

The Italo-Ethiopian conflict took a new turn when pressed by native chiefs Emperor Haile Selassie, notified the League of Nations that he cannot mark time any longer while Italy continues to strengthen its armed forces in Eritrea and Somaliland, and intends to immediately mobilize the nation for war.

This statement from Ethiopia was made public after the Italian representatives at the League had once again declared that war in Ethiopia could not possibly be avoided, that it was too late for Italy to turn back. In view of this statement and Ethiopia's mobilization observers expect hostilities to be opened within ten days.

What is still worrying Italy is the attitude of Great Britain. Il Duce has gone out of his way to make clear thru public declarations as well as thru private conferences that Italy has no intentions of harming British interests. The representatives of Il Duce have been working overtime in an effort to isolate France, apparently without success, for England continues to parallel Italy's war preparations with its own in the Mediterranean and in Africa.

England has even gone further and has declared that any aggression against France on the continent would be considered as a step towards war and would lead to Britain's support of France. This announcement was a severe blow to Italy

### Miners Secure Wage Increases

George S. Ward, secretary of the Harlan County Coal Operators Ass'n, announced that all members of the association have decided to pay the scale agreed upon in Washington between the U.M.W. and the operators.

At the same time it became known that a reign of terror against the miners still continues in Harlan County. Representatives of the U.M.W. appeared before Governor Laffoon and he dispatched General H. H. Denhardt at the head of National Guard troops to make a thoro investigation.

The strike of the 400,000 bituminous miners has been settled after 6 days of negotiations and practically all miners will have returned to the pits by Tuesday, October 1. The exceptions are the miners of Virginia and Tennessee and of Perry and Harlan Counties, Ky., where the operators have refused to sign the contract. In these mines the strike continues until the agreement is signed.

The new contract is to run for 18 months instead of 12 as proposed by the union. The six hour day and five day week was not secured, the agreement continuing the seven hour, five day week. The increases secured in wages will total about 90 million dollars a year.

The following are the terms of the agreement: (1) increase of 50 cents a day for day workers; (2) increase of 9 cents a ton for tonnage men; (3) increase of 10 per cent for "yardage" or "dead work," compensating the miners for clearing up rock or slate; (4) increase of 9 cents on the ton for pick miners.

#### NOTE NEW DATE

Hear  
**Bert Wolfe**  
"THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SEVENTH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL"  
IRVING PLAZA  
15th Street & Irving Place  
on  
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9th  
Questions and Discussion  
ADMISSION 15 CENTS  
Auspices:  
COMMUNIST PARTY U.S.A.  
(OPPOSITION)



