

Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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Zimmerman Is Re-elected

United Victory Sweeping Elect Negro Dressmaker Business Agent

The entire United Ticket—manager, executive board, business agents, convention delegates and relief committee—was overwhelmingly swept into office in the elections of Dressmakers Union Local 22, I.L.G.W.U., held on Thursday, March 18. Over seventeen thousand members of the Local, more than had ever taken part on any similar occasion, voted in the elections.

Of the 17,324 votes cast, Chas. S. Zimmerman, candidate for manager, received 14,596, or about 85%. Against him were cast no more than 387 votes or about 2%. There were 2,341 ballots invalid for various reasons, or about 13%. Together with Zimmerman were elected by tremendous majorities all of the candidates on the United Ticket—29 executive board members, 33 business agents, 24 convention delegates and 5 relief committee members.

Of special interest is the fact that, in this election, for the first time in the history of the Union, a colored dressmaker, Edith Ransom, was chosen as a regular paid officer, a business agent. On the new executive board, there will be three colored members and three more in the Local 22 delegation to the I.L.G.W.U. convention. These colored workers, together with the Spanish-speaking members on the executive board and convention delegation, are an evidence of the efforts being made in Local 22 to bring all sections of the membership to responsible positions in Union leadership.

During the elections, the United Campaign Committee, representing the Progressive and Left Wing Groups, made unity the main issue of its campaign and appealed to the dressmakers to cast their votes as a ratification of the steps towards unity already taken and as a mandate for further efforts to consolidate the ranks of the Union. The tremendously high vote cast, and the big majority received by the candidates of the United Ticket, not only reflect the keen interest of the membership in the issues of the campaign but also constitute an overwhelming vote of confidence in the new administration and its policies. The incoming administration is deeply conscious of the heavy responsibility placed upon it by such an unmistakable expression of trust and confidence. It is fully aware that it is now faced with the great task of carrying out the mandate it has received from the membership, of realizing in life the program championed by it during the campaign—to cement more firmly the unity of all elements in the organization, to enforce more vigorously conditions in the shops, to make the Union an even more effective force for progressivism in the general labor movement.

N. Y. LABOR COUNCIL HOLDS OFF ON C.I.O.

The New York Central Trades and Labor Council postponed action for the present on William Green's demand for expulsion of all local unions affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization.

The meeting, Thursday, March 18, was very crowded in expecta-

PROGRESSIVE UNION LEADER RE-ELECTED



CHARLES S. ZIMMERMAN

Soviet Trade Favorable

Export Of The Industrial Products Marks New Economic Gains

Publication of the trade statistics of the Soviet Union for 1936 reveals the extension of the successful Russian economy and its further stabilization. In 1935 the trend towards decreased imports was most noteworthy as an indication of increased productive capacity of the Soviet factories and farms. This year there is registered a 6% increase in industrial exports over last year, showing that Soviet machinery, coal iron and other minerals are plentiful enough for export. (Industrial exports are 89% of the total).

At the official exchange rate of 5 rubles to a dollar, Soviet imports for 1936 totalled \$270,400,000, and exports \$271,800,000. While in official capitalist parlance these figures show a "low favorable balance of trade," their importance lies in the fact that they reflect the decreased export of consumers goods and food products, items which more and more are being utilized in the inner-economic life of the USSR.

The countries exporting to Russia were, in quantitative order, Germany, United States, and Great Britain. The fact that Germany led the list is solely due to the existence of a large credit of the Soviets in Germany, a credit which expired with this year. As a matter of fact, Germany was last in the list of buyers of Soviet goods, the tendency of the Soviet trade monopoly policy being to decrease commercial relations with the Nazi regime.

tion of action on this issue. However, the unanimous report of the executive committee, read by the secretary, stated that the Green letter did not call for action now. Until such time as "more specific instructions" come from the A.F.L. Executive Council, nothing would be done, it was stated.

Union Threatens General Auto Tie-Up In Detroit

REO STRIKE 100% SOLID; SIT-DOWN IS SMOOTHLY ORGANIZED

Lansing, Michigan—Events led up to the Reo strike as follows: Mr. Baes, president, requesting a

On February 26 nearly two weeks ago we sent a telegram to Mr. Bates, president, requesting a conference on wages, hours, and working conditions. Mr. Bates did not even answer our wire.

After giving him two days to reply, he was called on the phone to find out what he intended to do about it. He said that the entire matter had been turned over to Ernest Keller, chairman of the management committee selected to deal with the Union. On being asked what authority the committee had been given, Mr. Bates told us that the committee had complete and full authority to negotiate this matter.

A meeting was arranged with the management committee for Tuesday, March 1st. In contradiction to Mr. Bates' statement, the union was told by Keller, that it had authority to negotiate a signed agreement, but only a "gentlemen's agreement."

On March 4th the union committee again met with the manage-

ment. The company not only refused to sign a written agreement but turned down proposals for wage increases and sole collective bargaining.

At this time the negotiations with the company appeared to be absolutely futile. The company was not even considering the most important points in our proposals.

In a last attempt at reaching some understanding, Homer Martin called Bates on the phone, this Monday night and negotiations were renewed Tuesday afternoon at three thirty.

The meetings with the management Tuesday were not only fruitless as before but the company reduced wages in the 4800 plant an average of 18 per cent effective Wednesday and fired 15 men who were active in the union.

There was only one thing left to do. On Wednesday at 2 o'clock the 4800 plant sat down. At 3:30 in the middle of our discussions with the company the rest of the men were ordered to sit down and the negotiations abandoned.

A request was made by the company Thursday to remove auto

(Continued on Page 6)

Chrysler Men Stand Firm

Martin and Frankenstein Refuse To Serve On Murphy's Board

Police raids on sit-downs in the city of Detroit brought the threat of a general auto strike from Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers. While raids ceased temporarily the day after the threat was made, as we go to press they have been revived again. A huge demonstration is being planned to protest the activities of the city police.

The situation in Chrysler remains tense. Altho the company is armed with the blanket injunction to oust the strikers, the courage and unity of the Flint GM workers remains as a brilliant example for the Chrysler workers in the face of this vicious provocation by the Chrysler Corporation and the company-owned courts. Strikers in the plants sent a letter to Governor Murphy who has organized a citizen's committee for "law and order" expressing their opinion that he could use his "influence to see that our grievances are adjusted, or you can try to use the States troops to try to force us out." This latter course, they said could only lead to bloodshed and more strikes, for it would settle nothing.

Martin and Frankenstein both refused to serve on Murphy's committee, pointing out that the auto workers had had enough of boards, recalling the experience with Wolman's Auto Labor Board.

AUTO UNION GAINS IN NEWARK

In Newark the International Union, United Automobile Workers of America, through its Organizer, Sidney Jonas, announced the arrest of three volunteer organizers at the Ford plant in Edgewater, New Jersey. While this occurred, in Edgewater the Union had entered into successful negotiations with the Titeflex Metal Hose Company in Newark and obtained for the workers in this plant recognition of the Union as the sole collective bargaining agency, a wage increase of 10 cents per hour to begin as of March 11th, and time and one half for overtime. He stated that despite the efforts of Hoffman's special state police force to hinder the organizing work of the United Automobile Workers Union at the Ford plant, the Union is determined to finish its drive to enroll every Automobile worker in New Jersey under its banner and obtain for them the conditions and rights enjoyed in the Michigan Area.

billion to the Loan for National Defense" (That makes the People's Front broader than ever—in fact, I think it makes it complete. With Morgan one of the French People lined up against the 200 families, nothing can stop the Front Populaire. In fact, you give me Morgan and I'll give you the 200 families, and throw the Rive Gauche into the bargain.)

French Rights Jubilant Over Blum's War Loan

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE
(Our special European Correspondent)

Paris, March 10.—Blum's new war loan is the topic of the day here. Rist, who recently publicly attacked the 40 hour week, and Rueff, the drafter of the Laval emergency decrees, both returned to the treasury department to put it through. The Right (I mean Haute Finance) is jubilant. Some samples of comment:

L'Echo de Paris: Blum is extending his hand to the right. But we must have guarantees that he won't pull it back again. . . . The reign of Jouhaux must cease.

Le Temps: The measures receive more approval in the ranks of the opposition than in the ranks of the majority. That is not surprising—It is now up to the masses to say whether they will follow the authorities in the new financial paths . . . the worker masses must by their ardor in labor, by their energy in pushing production indispensable for economic recovery and consequently for financial relief, and show clearly that these promises (of Blum) will be kept in deeds, that the confidence which is appealed for will not be deceived.

Paris Midi: This pact of liberty, order, traditional finance, of class collaboration, of union of the en-

tire nation for defense, symbolically united in one, of security and of the franc.

Figaro: We limit ourselves to congratulating the government.

Journee Industrielle: At last the theory of purchasing power is eclipsed completely by more orthodox affirmations and budgetary wisdom and even by a horrifying return to the policy of economies.

Gustave Herve in Victorie: What a blow out, my Emperor! (That for his old friend Blum). That lamentable minister of the People's Front arouses our pity. That isn't a pause any more, it's a surrender.

L'Humanite limits itself to expressions of outraged indignation that the Right is rejoicing, and tried to persuade the right that it has nothing to rejoice about (You're telling me?) Here's a taster.

"The conspirators think they will be able to take advantage of the presence in the government of M. Rist and M. Rueff . . .

"At this moment when a loan is being floated and ought to succeed to assure the security of the democratic country, one doesn't see the representatives of high finance and social reaction . . . cease their acts of panic and treason. Strange patriotism!"

As for L'Oeuvre, it's main head yesterday was: "It is asserted that the Morgan Bank is subscribing a

WILL HERBERG

FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd - 8:30 P. M.

ADMISSION 25c

LECTURES ON

'Road To Victory In Spain'

NEW WORKERS SCHOOL

131 West 33rd Street

Strong Labor Movement Bar Against Fascism Says Lewis

At an anti-Nazi meeting in Madison Square Garden, March 15, arranged by the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labor Committee, John L. Lewis spoke before an audience of 20,000 on the conditions of the German workers and the pre-eminent role of labor in the struggle against Fascism.

The destruction of the trade union movement by the Nazi regime was stressed by Lewis. He pointed out that the German Labor Front, "that hideous substitute for the once great trade union movement," itself published figures revealing that one third of the German workers earn less than \$2 per week, another third less than \$6 per week, and only one-third earn more than \$10.

Sharp condemnation was accorded the concentration camp system, the military subjugation of the workers in the factories, and the outlawing of the workers' right to strike.

To these trade union leaders who stuck to their posts and were brutally slain by the Nazis, Lewis paid tribute as "gallant men and women."

Below are printed excerpts from that section of his speech which deal with the problems of American labor in this connection:

"The establishment of a Fascist dictatorship in the United States would undoubtedly assure a retrogression from which civilization might not recover for ages and from which it would certainly not recover for many years. I know of only one means of insuring our safety—the workers of America must find self-expression in economic, in social and in political matters. They must become conscious of their responsibilities and of their privileges. They must become articulate and they must be free from industrial oppression so that they may assume the power which is theirs by right. All thoughtful citizens who share their objectives should support them.

"By the workers of America, I do not mean only unskilled laborers and skilled artisans. Labor no longer signifies 'the man with the hoe.' It is the voice of the people of the world, regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Labor, to us, extends from the unskilled industrial and agricultural workers throughout the so-called white collar groups, including technicians, teachers, professional groups, newspaper employes and others. I believe also that the fundamental interests of labor and farmers are interdependent and that they should work together for the same democratic and economic objectives.

Would Make Labor Articulate
"I know of but one method to insure safety for the future: labor must become articulate. The millions of workers must express themselves through the medium of organization of their industries or callings. The workers must be made economically free, in order to assure them the maximum of opportunity to champion and defend the elemental principles of human liberty.

"It was for this purpose that the Committee for Industrial Organization was formed and it is toward this end that we are struggling. I need hardly point out to you that the union is not only an instrument for improving workers' wages, hours and conditions of labor, it is also an instrument for the expression of their social, political and economic aims.

"If we can organize the masses of American workers, we can free them from industrial servitude. If

we can free them from industrial servitude, we can, in the fullest sense, free them from the political shackles which in the past have restrained and limited their strength. There is no reactionary force which can stand against the untrammelled and crystallized voice of the two-thirds of our population represented by labor.

Seeks No Arbitrary Power

"There are persons in America who have claimed that the leaders of organized labor in this country are ambitious for arbitrary or dictatorial power. Nothing could be farther removed from the ambitions and aspirations of our movement and its leadership. We desire only that the members of our unions, and labor as a whole, should be able to enjoy the rights which are theirs under the Constitution of the United States, and that they should participate in the government of their country, in accordance with their rights as citizens.

"If we can establish industrial democracy in the United States we can insure the continuance of its political democracy....

"I will repeat again that the establishment of such a stable national economy must be based upon industrial democracy. In this connection I should like to point out the most significant advances

BLIND WORKERS MUST TIE-UP STRUGGLE WITH TRADE UNIONS

By MAX DUBROW

"The struggle of the blind against 'the institution' dealt within last week's Workers Age is here given its concrete programmatic form.—Editor"

Simultaneously with these steps the Joint Action Committee must take the following steps:

1. Fight for admission of the shop-workers to their respective trade unions. Here again details are secondary to the basic principle involved and must be worked out by those directly concerned. For this purpose there should be established in every shop a C.I.O. affiliation committee and these committees, if not already represented, should be given immediate representation on the Joint Action Committee of the Blind, which should extend them every aid in establishing the principle of collective-bargaining.
2. Take immediate steps to provide the necessary machinery for the protection of the blind when the recently passed state law becomes operative in May, and when all its shortcomings will manifest themselves in actual practice. Qualification and disqualification of applicants must not become the plaything of hard-boiled, "institution" inspired, political appointees.
3. Take up the fight for the blind WPA workers. Expose to the world the discriminatory practice (allegedly engineered by the "institutions") involving a wage scale of \$13-\$14, for blind WPA workers while sighted workers receive \$19.00. Make equality of blind with sighted workers a reality by fighting for "equal pay for equal work." Food, clothing and shelter is no cheaper for blind than for seeing workers. Why should the children of the blind go to school in cast-off clothing and shoes begged from church members and private charity or else go underclothed and undernourished?
4. Discard the negative attitude toward reprisal and victimization of adherents of the Joint Action Committee by the "institutions" and substitute in its place a positive program for the active enlist-

FLAYS NAZIS



JOHN L. LEWIS

toward industrial democracy have recently been made in the major industries of the nation. They are hopeful portents for the future.

"In conclusion, I have but one thing to emphasize—that if the fate of Germany is to be averted from this nation we must and we shall secure a strong, well organized, disciplined and articulate labor movement.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By George F. Miles

THE current issue of LABOR, published by the railway unions, appears with the following caption over a story on the AFL-CIO relations: "Lewis Sets Up Rival to A.F.L.; Step Had Long Been Forecast." LABOR has been consistently pro-Green in the present dispute in the labor movement but nevertheless this story is exceptional for what it includes as well as for what it excludes.

We are told for instance that the decision of the CIO to issue new charters had been long foreseen by the AFL because it is quite in line with the aim of the CIO which is, "to be a dual organization." The present story of the CIO, according to this story, constitutes premeditated splitting with malice aforethought. Lewis is given the floor, in the article, in the form of a paraphrased sentence to the effect that new charters will be granted. But every word in Lewis' statement as well as in that of the CIO statement on the reasons for this step are carefully deleted.

The fact of the matter is that the present action of CIO is hardly a case of hand-biting, or the response of an ingrate to his kind benefactor. Despite the censored labor sheets as Labor, most people know that the immediate point of departure for the CIO action was the open splitting policy of the AFL. The instructions to the city and state bodies to oust all CIO unions was a declaration of open war. The council's present attitude of outraged innocence therefore comes in mighty poor grace. It had no reason to believe that its un-Christian behaviour would meet with Galilean humility.

What should the CIO have done under circumstances where the AFL seeks to break up and disperse the CIO organizations. It is clear that these organizations, if expelled from their central bodies, must be held together, for the sake of the workers in the organizations involved as well as well as for the aid and support that these organizations are rendering in a self-sacrificing manner to union organization in the un-

organized labor press and the groups surrounding them. Obtain the support of labor and liberal organizations for a thorough investigation by the National Labor Relations Board of the conditions prevailing in the "sheltered" shops and the company-union-like Improvement Club.

5. Strengthen the organizations already affiliated to the Joint Action Committee by enabling each to broaden its function and activity to its fullest extent. Eradicate rivalry and overlapping by common agreement between the Joint Action Committee and the organizations involved.

6. Organize the unorganized blind, assigning them to their organizations already in existence, wherever possible.

7. Approach the task of developing a permanent structure and constitution for the Joint Committee from the standpoint of the policy here outlined and based upon its needs and conditions. Departmentalization of the Joint Committee will provide the answer to the first while discussion of these questions paves the way for the latter.

Against Division and Disruption
Already there is a definite American Labor Party element in existence in the Joint Action Committee. This element comprising men and

women who have joined the American Labor Party as individuals, must take the initiative for putting these questions on the agenda and the responsibility for carrying them out in practice.

There is also in existence a definite childish-left-sectarian group claiming the endorsement of the International Workers Order. This group must be urged to come down to earth long enough to deal with immediate problems in a way calculated to strengthen the united front around the Joint Committee. It must particularly be urged to cease playing with the dangerous perspective of replacing the Joint Committee with their own organization. This perspective is the soil in which grows the tricky maneuvers and disruptive tactics keeping the Joint Committee seething with inner turmoil the final result of which can be no other than the discrediting of this group and its endorsement. Having its roots among the shop-workers, it should recognize that the problem of the blind is primarily a labor problem. The unions rather than fraternal orders must be the basis upon which to build a future movement which, if true, will also involve to some extent the fraternal societies already organized among the blind.

The 15,000 blind in New York, the estimated 100,000 blind workers, self-employers, newsdealers and professionals, will be looking to the New York Joint Action Committee for guidance and leadership in launching a nationwide movement around the "Federal Bill" now pending. The only thing that can prevent a repetition in Washington of the betrayal of the blind by the Agencies is the unity of the blind with organized labor.

ganiezed industries.

The executive council is shouting "stop thief" in order to divert attention from its own nefarious splitting tactics.

An interesting phase of this development is the tardy and unenthusiastic manner in which most of the central labor bodies and state federations are handling this expulsion order of Green. In the vast majority of cases the order still rests in coat pockets or desk drawers. Whatever action has all ready been taken hardly calls for cheers from Mr. Green's direction.

The Cleveland Federation of Labor voted to oust the CIO unions after a pretty close fight. The Maryland Federation of Labor carried out Green's order by the simple expedient of refusing to accept dues from any CIO affiliate. No conference was called, no approval for this policy was sought because, leaders of the federation state confidentially, they feared they could never command a majority for such splitting policies.

The San Francisco Central Labor Union sprang a surprise on craft union supporters by voting 158 to 44 against Green's instructions. The Minneapolis organization postponed action for a month, while South Bend, Ind. voted to "receive and file"—which means to pay no attention to it.

In the case of Columbus, Ohio, matters are going from bad to worse for the executive council. On the initiative of Ralph Ellis of the Typographical Union No. 5 a restraining order was obtained thwarting Green's effort to lift the local Central Labor Council charter for harboring CIO unions. Determined to carry the war to the enemy, Green sent Francis Dillon to get the Typographical Union on record against its own president Ellis. The local voted 163 to 4 endorsing the efforts of its president to maintain the unity of the Central Labor Union. Not realizing that he was licked, Dillon insisted on addressing the meeting even after the vote and this time the membership voted 163 to 4 against letting him speak.

The latter vote indicates that Dillon's popularity among the workers remains at the high level it had reached when the auto workers "tearfully" told him to get to hell out.

Members of the Committee for Industrial Organization throught the nation will be shocked to learn that they are members of a Soviet which threatens ultimately "to destroy the trade union movement." At least that's what Francis J. Dillon claimed while arguing against the restraining order asked by the CIO supporters in Columbus, Ohio. "It (the CIO) is closer to the Soviet order," said Green's errand boy, "that many of us realize."

However, there is really nothing very alarming. Red baiting is the favorite tool of bureaucrats who lose their hold over the membership of their organizations. Strangely enough even the judge sitting in this case was singularly unimpressed by Dillon's trump card.

Nevertheless there is something in what Dillon said—and that is that the growth of the CIO will undoubtedly do away with that type of unionism which is so dear to Dillon's heart.

19th century the growing strength and influence of labor was asserted in another manner. In 1887 the state of New York enacted a section into its penal law making it unlawful for employers to coerce, require or influence employees not to join or remain members of trade unions. So early indeed had the "yellow-dog contract" made its appearance in American labor relations. Similar statutes were enacted in several other states and even in Congress. The United States Supreme Court placed itself, at the first opportunity, in the ranks of those opposed to progressive social legislation. The

one of them to the complete disadvantage of the other. The Courts openly display their class character by uniformly springing to the assistance of Capital in every emergency, while at the same time impeding at every turn the legitimate aspirations of Labor.

The property right of the worker in his job involves also, of course, the right to withhold his labor, that is, the right to strike. The chief weapons of labor in the economic struggle are the strike, the picket line and the boycott. Picketing is of the greatest importance because there is always a certain number of backward

workers, those possessing better paid jobs than the rank and file, special seniority rights or other preferred status, who are reluctant to strike and must be persuaded to do so by example and argument. The right to picket is a corollary of the right to strike, yet a long and bloody struggle has been waged for its establishment.

Injunction—The Boss Weapon
The classic weapon of capital in labor disputes has been the labor injunction. In England this practice has never taken root to any general extent. Its wide-spread employment in the struggle of classes is a peculiar development of American jurisprudence. Although a few courts of lower classification had issued injunctions before 1894, the practice was not regularized and did not become general until after the Federal Courts had given their sanction to it.

The Debs' case, followed by the Danbury Hatters' and Gompers' cases made the courts a veritable arsenal for anti-union employes. The Supreme Court gave its unstinted support to the issuance of the most sweeping injunctions, many of which have trampled upon basic democratic rights guaranteed by the first ten amendments of the Constitution. In these three cases the Sherman Anti-Trust Law was tortured by judicial construction into an anti-labor statute, although such use was far from the minds of those who enacted it. Every high-school student knows that this law was directed against huge capital aggregations in the form of trusts and monopolies. Yet the superior learning of the Supreme Court enabled it to discover that a labor union engaged in a legitimate effort to improve the standard of life of its members was guilty of conspiracy in restraint of trade within the meaning of that statute. One Federal District Court

injunction violated Labor's Rights
The Clayton Act was passed in an effort to check judicial usurpation run riot but the courts emasculated its favorable provisions and found a basis in some of its general terminology for the extension of the proscribed practice. Only recently the stimulus of labor opposition and a more critical general attitude toward the judiciary has brought about the enactment by Congress and several states of legislation designed to curb the excesses of this practice. They effect some important changes in procedure but they fail entirely to come to grips with the central problem. The restraints imposed are treated as formalities of procedure in respect to which a show of compliance must be made. Otherwise there has been no essential change at all. It is about time that the masses of the people in this country recognized the fact that the anti-labor injunction as such is without any proper basis in the law of equity. In England its use has been abandoned long ago. The special sanction given to it here by the Supreme Court has enabled it to

Right To Work Is Property Right
Toward the latter part of the

ARE THE SIT-DOWN STRIKES LEGAL?

by BENJAMIN RISSEN

THE sit-down strike is an event of such recent origin that there has, as yet, been little opportunity to evaluate its status as a matter of law. Precedents presenting similar situations of fact simply do not exist. The determination of its validity involves a historical review of the development of labor law in this country.

Of course, our entire legal system is an outgrowth of the relations and changes in the forms of property. In the course of its evolution it has sanctified the rights of private property above all others. Contrary to general impression, the law has been swift, decisive and extraordinarily malleable in the adaptation of its precedents and procedures to the changing property relations of the modern epoch. It has been tardy in the recognition of change and rigid in the application of its formulas only in those cases in which property rights have clashed with human rights. It has fought a determined rear-guard action against the needs and demands of the emerging labor movement.

Labor Defied First Laws
Even in its nascent stage, before it had yet locked arms in combat and emerged triumphant over the feudal order, the rising bourgeois class of the first modern state was able to write into the law its class requirements against labor. In England the plague known as the Black Death created a scarcity of labor and placed the workers in a relatively favorable position. The beginnings of associations of workmen in a modern form appear in that era.

To check the resulting rise in wages and smash the beginnings of organization, the first Statutes of Laborers were enacted in 1349 and 1350. These first early statutes determined the development of English law and established doctrines which prevailed over a course of several centuries. Later statutes modeled upon them were even more viciously anti-labor. The extreme point in oppressive labor legislation was reached in England in the statutes of 1799 and 1800. These rigidly regulated wages, hours of labor and places of work, and prohibited absolutely combinations of workmen to change these conditions in any respect.

The English common law was part of the heritage of the original thirteen states and with it came the principles of labor law grafted therein. The first recorded case in this country involving the right of labor to organize was tried at Philadelphia in 1806. The court there declared that "combinations of workmen to raise their wages may be considered in a two-fold point of view: one is to benefit themselves.... the other is to injure those who do not join their society. The rule of law condemns both." The decision in this case was followed in several other jurisdictions. But labor defied the law, continued its efforts to organize at great hazard and finally compelled the courts to retreat. In 1842 in the famous case of Commonwealth v. Hunt, Chief Justice Shaw of Massachusetts abandoned English and American precedent and recognized the right of workers to form trade unions. Gradually the view expressed in that opinion became the prevailing law throughout the country and labor thus succeeded in wresting from the courts the elementary right of organization.

Since labor thus possesses property rights as well as capital and these rights are essentially of a similar nature according to the Court, then it certainly ought to follow that the two contestants should be permitted to settle their differences without the intervention by the courts and the armed forces of the state on the side of

went so far as to affirm that "there is and can be no such thing as peaceful picketing any more than there can be chaste vulgarity or peaceful mobbing or lawful lynching." The United States Supreme Court put itself on record to the effect that "we think that the strikers and their sympathizers engaged in the economic struggle should be limited to one representative for each point of ingress and egress in the plant or place of business and that all others be enjoined from congregating or loitering at the plant or in the neighboring streets by which access is had to the plant."

experience a unique development. The fact is that practically without exception every one of these injunctions has done violence to the elementary and basic requirements of equity procedure itself. Such fundamental maxims of equity as "he who comes into a court of equity must come with clean hands" and "he who seeks equity must do equity" have been utterly disregarded. Ever since the Clayton Act the courts have swept aside every legislative effort to confine the use of such injunctions within stated limits. There is only one legal remedy which will work. The issuance of injunctions in labor disputes must be prohibited in absolute terms by statute.

The Sit-Down—A Challenge

Not all of the members of the judiciary can be exposed so easily as was Justice Black who issued a most drastic injunction against the sit-down strikers in behalf of General Motors in spite of the fact that he was himself disqualified by reason of his ownership of a huge block of stock in that corporation. But with only an extraordinarily rare exception, the members of the judiciary are motivated both consciously and otherwise, by the most complete and exclusive devotion to the rights of private property. Throughout the country the courts have granted injunctions against sit-down strikers, merely for the asking, although the situation is such a novel one that very little law exists on the subject and such precedents as there are definitely favor the sit-downers.

The challenge to property rights inherent in the sit-down technique has aroused a storm of opposition. Conservative opinion has aligned itself in serried ranks against the sit-down on the ground that it is illegal because it is a trespass and that therefore the participants in it are criminals. Governors of states vie with each other in their haste to denounce it. Even the conservative New York Times forgets its dignity and lends its voice to the chorus of invective. The Times should be informed that it is not getting the accuracy that it has the right to expect from its expensive counsel. Sit-down strikers are not criminals and the sit-down itself is not a trespass. As a matter of law not even a trespasser is an outlaw. The remedy against a trespasser is not a criminal but a civil proceeding. On these two propositions the Times, the Governors and numerous other self-designated interpreters of the law are entirely wrong. The authority for the foregoing statements and those which follow will be found in Corpus Juris, the foremost compilation of the common law in existence, as well as in numerous decisions of various state and Federal courts.

(Continued Next Week)



Sit-down strikers in their meal hour.

workers, those possessing better paid jobs than the rank and file, special seniority rights or other preferred status, who are reluctant to strike and must be persuaded to do so by example and argument. The right to picket is a corollary of the right to strike, yet a long and bloody struggle has been waged for its establishment.

Injunction—The Boss Weapon
The classic weapon of capital in labor disputes has been the labor injunction. In England this practice has never taken root to any general extent. Its wide-spread employment in the struggle of classes is a peculiar development of American jurisprudence. Although a few courts of lower classification had issued injunctions before 1894, the practice was not regularized and did not become general until after the Federal Courts had given their sanction to it.

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JUST OFF THE PRESS!

TWO NEW PAMPHLETS
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CLICHY

In the complex of French events, one thing is certain: There is no limit to the shame that the labor movement will inflict upon itself so long as it tolerates the People's Front government and maintains the People's Front course.

The murder of a half dozen and wounding of several scores of workers in Clichy—by Blum's police and the Fascist cronies—is but a straw in the hurricane. It has been ages since so much insult and injury have been heaped upon any labor movement. Clichy is a proletarian center; it is part of the "red belt" around Paris. Its central square is called "Sacco-Vanzetti Place." Here Fascism has no toehold. Into this working class territory the Fascist pest of Count de la Roquette was deliberately allowed to come by getting a police permit for a show and gathering. The local authorities, knowing the mood of the workers, fearing the workers' hatred of Fascism, warned against the police granting such permission to de la Roquette's outfit. Labor in Clichy could take it only as a piece of dastardly provocation by the Fascists and their police-protectors controlled directly by Blum's Cabinet.

Bloodshed was inevitable under such circumstances. Time and again Blum's police prevented labor organizations from holding meetings on the ground that they would tend to provoke "disturbance of the public peace." We still haven't forgotten how "Comrade" Blum arranged to have the Communist Party reduce more than 100 of its meetings scheduled in Alsace to about 10—in the interest of "Public Safety." Why didn't Blum's People's Front police apply the same yardstick to the Fascist invasion of proletarian Clichy? How did the French Fascists get that way so as to have the impudence even to toy with the idea of defiling the proletarian soil of Clichy? And where do these armed Fascist groups come from anyway? Weren't they supposed to have been dissolved long ago? Isn't this "dissolution" alleged to be one of the outstanding achievements of the government led by Blum and blessed by Thorez?

This Croix de Feu invasion of Clichy and the murderous attack of the uniformed and un-uniformed forces of law and order on the workers is the natural and inevitable outcome of the whole People's Front course. The very time when this shooting of Clichy proletarians occurred is itself replete with sinister significance. It came right on the heels of Blum's proclamation of "a pause" in even making a pretense at considering the interests of demands of the great mass of workers, civil servants and lower middle class folk. The bloody invasion of Red Clichy by the black hordes of French Fascism—tolerated, legalized, and protected by the Blum-Daladier-Thorez government—came right after the People's Front government had again betrayed the interests of labor by turning over full control of public finance and currency to such watchdogs of the "200 families" as Prof. Rist, avowed enemy of the 40-hour week, and Mr. Rueff, confidential agent of Laval. The onslaught on Clichy came after the C.P. of France voted in the Chamber of Deputies for the defense loan-war credits.

In this light it is easy to understand what the noted Paris correspondent Philip meant when he described Thorez's post mortem at Clichy as filled "with sedative words camouflaged by the energy of their delivery." No one can now doubt the impotency of the C.P. of France as a revolutionary organization, as a fighting organization of class-conscious labor. That's what Mr. Philip referred to when he said that the "Blum government has succeeded in keeping the Communists in line as its political 'tail'." But that 'tail' has not got any more, and probably less political importance in consequence.

The protest general strike in Paris, grudgingly permitted and deliberately distorted by the C.P., S.P. and top trade union officialdom, shows the real mood in the ranks of the workers. The International proletariat can rejoice and well be proud of the instinctively healthy response of the great mass of French labor in critical hours.

Clichy! Let it be an alarm, a ghastly warning, and a signal to change the course. Such a change the S.P. as well as the C.P. must make; then the militant united front of labor will be enhanced and a working class victory over Fascism in France will be insured. The call of Clichy is stern but clear. Let us take heed.

The Labor "Battle Of The Century"

By JAY LOVESTONE
DETROIT once spelled failure in the heart of American unionism. Detroit today is the symbol of the surge of millions of American workers taking their first steps to come into their own. Detroit, Flint, Lansing, Pittsburgh, Chicago—these are magic names that will hold the country spellbound in the coming months.

Why? Let's have the U. S. News, that garrulous champion of the public, "the people as a whole," against labor as a class, essay an answer.

"It is now a year and a half since John L. Lewis launched a new drive to achieve such mass unionization of workers. He professed an end of patience with the pace of the A. F. of L. and its policy of organizing by crafts. Resigning his official position with the Federation, he led eight international unions, since increased to sixteen, in a move to form the Committee for Industrial Organization."

"Today, members of this group are bargaining with the largest units in the automobile and steel industries—enterprises previously held by unions against dealing with unions other than those sponsored by themselves..."

"By all odds, the most rapid increase in membership has taken place in the unions associated with the CIO. The steel union grew from 8,000 to an estimated total approaching 200,000. The automobile union increased from about 20,000 to ten times this number. Members of the radio union grew from less than 20,000 to 75,000. Rubber workers, glass workers, and gas and oil unions similarly multiplied the number of their members." (March 8, 1937).

G. M. Victory Led Way
Phenomenal growth indeed! And by this time, these figures are badly out-of-date. The entire country first woke up to this avalanche when "Big Steel" signed on the dotted line. The latter was only a logical consequence of giant significance flowing from the defeat administered to General Motors by the auto workers. Rarely does a single event of and by itself mean so much. "Big Business" knows it and has frankly said so:

"The labor 'battle of the century' has been called off... For the union, and for Mr. Lewis as leader of industrial unionism in this country, the agreement means a historic gain. Lewis is now in a position to proceed with effective organization both in motors and steel, and with the door open to him here it can hardly be closed in other mass production industries. An era of labor-management relations is closed; a new era opens. Scarcely does a single happening appear so closely to draw the line that closes off the reign of old ideas..."

"Granting the inevitability of collective bargaining, there is no logic in resisting it with closed eyes and ears... Mr. Lewis' unionism is immature, but in time it can become a stabilizing factor in prosperity, and it is more likely to gain this stature in the school of negotiations than on the picket line or under gas attack." (The Financial Observer, March 9, 1937).

These are no tipster's effusions. They are deliberately chosen words pregnant with ominous im-

Lambda EUROPE TODAY

Czech Bourgeoisie Flirt With Henlein - Church and Germany

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
THE government of the Czechoslovakian republic has made several concessions to the Henlein party which receives its instructions from Hitler-Germany. The only effect of this action is that the Henlein party intensifies its struggle against the government and that the German campaign against Czechoslovakia goes on as before. It is clearly noticeable, however, that the tendency to compromise with the Nazis is growing among the Czech bourgeoisie.

By sponsoring a program of partial demands based on the theory of "equal rights" of national minorities the C.P. tries to mediate between the Czechs and the Germans. Strict adherence to revolutionary principles in the national struggle would provide the only basis for carrying on a successful fight against Henlein's fascism and the reactionary Czech bourgeoisie. Since the party gave up this revolutionary position, there is great danger that the working class of Czechoslovakia will be ground to pieces between the millstones of the German and Czech nationalists.

THE SEMI-FASCIST PROGRAM OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT

THE NEW program which the Polish government proclaimed through Colonel Koc, the spokesman of General Ridz-Smigly, makes concessions to that part of the Polish bourgeoisie which evinces totalitarian leanings, especially the National Democrats. This program very clearly indicates the weakness and helplessness of the government's position. The masses of the Polish peasants are more and more subject to agrarian-revolutionary moods and demand that the big land owners be expropriated without compensation. The anti-semitic movement, which the government half-heartedly supports, does not offer the peasants anything concrete. It is not the Jews who own the land which the peasants demand, but the Polish Junkers. As matters stand, things don't look as if the government could carry out its program effectively.

THE CHURCH FIGHT IN HITLER GERMANY

THE NAZIS are about to reopen the fight against the Protestant church opposition. Since the government-appointed church board failed to carry out its purposes and resigned, the Nazi rulers ordered general elections for the establishment of a "general synod." It goes without saying that the Nazis will run the elections and intensify the struggle. The fact that the church opposition stubbornly keeps up the fight indicates that dissatisfaction with the Nazi regime is growing among the petty bourgeois masses. And also the weakness of the proletariat in the struggle against the regime.

MONARCHISM IN AUSTRIA

THE AUSTRIAN chancellor announced that the government will settle the problem of the restoration of the monarchy by a plebiscite. This is a last desperate attempt to prevent Hitler Germany from swallowing up Austria. The French press half approves of the decision. It is clear that the proposal would not solve the problem that Austria presents. It would only help to further break up the Little Entente.

GERMANY AND COLONIES

WHEN von Ribbentrop informed Great Britain of the German demands for colonies the Nazis knew that these demands could not be granted, but they calculated on compensation by concessions nearer home, in Danzig, perhaps, where Goebbels openly spoke against the recognition of the status quo, and in Czechoslovakia, where the pressure of German influence makes itself strongly felt. It is no secret that the Czech military leaders reckon with the possibility of a German attack in the spring.

It has become increasingly difficult to supply Germany with food stuffs and raw materials. What the military leaders think about the situation was indicated by Colonel Thomas in a lecture on "War Economy and Economic Internationalism" (Reported in Frankfurter Zeitung of February 9, 1937). He said that the world war was lost in the

WHITHER MEXICO?

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE
(With this article Comrade Wolfe ends his series on present-day Mexico. The series is based upon the final chapter of his recently published work in which his 210 pages text accompany 249 full-page pictures by Diego Rivera. The book, "Portrait of Mexico" can be purchased by readers of the Workers' Age through us for \$4.00—postage prepaid—which means a saving of seventy-five cents.)

THE year 1937 dawns with Cardenas as Mexico's Strong Man. He sits more firmly in the saddle than either of his two predecessors in that role. The Government of the United States is no less friendly to him than it was to them. His base of support inside the country is broader and stronger than theirs, for it includes a growing native capitalist class and capitalist landowning sector and ranges at present all the way from the moderate Catholics to the Communist Party. The force of the landowners is by no means broken but it can no longer count for the present on the support of any important foreign capital. Barring foreign support and inspiration, revolutionary attempts from the Right cannot for the moment be anything but feeble. Revolts as a constituent part of electoral procedure, to be sure, are likely to continue. Cardenas may face such an uprising some time before the end of his term in 1940; the landowners and the Church perhaps backing elements in his own regime discontented by his choice of a successor. But since 1920 such revolts have been weaker and weaker and none of them have been successful. The indications are that Cardenas will be able to name the next president, and presumably to control him.

Of course, international events have their repercussions in Mexico. Thus the fascist uprising in Spain aroused great sympathy among landowners and clerical reactionaries in Mexico, stiffened their morale and enabled them, under the guise of attack on the Spanish Government, to carry on a terrific propaganda campaign against the regime of President Cardenas, compelling him to line up with the Spanish Government to the limit that American desires would permit. A new world war, a victory of fascist or socialist forces in some important sector of the world, especially in the United States, would materially alter the situation in Mexico.

Native Capital Growing Factor

At present, Mexico continues to be ruled by the pattern invented by Obregon. Under it there has been greater stability than at any time since the Porfirian dictatorship. For sixteen years now it has prevented successful revolution. Faces change but the pattern remains. It was not Cardenas that attempted to depart from it, but Calles, grown rich and openly conservative, who proposed a public shift from popular and American capitalist support to unceasing reliance on native and American capital. He demanded the abandonment of the traditional demagoguery and limited reformism of the government as, in the long run, dangerous.

EUROPE TODAY

(Continued from Page 4)

winter of 1916-17 when the Germans had nothing to eat but turnips. He told his audience that they should not fool themselves as they had done before into believing that in the time of super-dreadnoughts and air-fleets a war can only be of short duration.

From this we may infer that the military leaders are not over-confident that Germany is economically well enough prepared for an imperialist war.

UNDER the date of February 12th, 1937, the *Manchester Guardian* published an article on the People's Front in China by G. E. Taylor wherein we read the following:

"Most Chinese admit that the only way in which China could, at the present time, arouse her peasantry to the support of the government in a foreign war would be to

COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE NEUTRALITY BILLS

By WILL HERBERG

IN the last issue of the *Workers' Age*, I discussed the question of neutrality legislation generally, attempting to show that, as a system, such legislation is not only futile but positively mischievous. It is ridiculous ineffective as a means of preventing war or of keeping the United States out of war; it becomes really dangerous when it is transformed, as it necessarily must be, into a cloak for a reactionary foreign policy.

All the more incomprehensible, therefore, is the attitude of the socialist and communist parties on this question. In the S.P., there is no single or consistent viewpoint; opinion varies all the way from the pseudo-radical abstentionism of the Trotskyites who insist, as a matter of "principle," upon government neutrality, thru Paul Porter's "positive peace policy," to Norman Thomas's advocacy of mandatory neutrality legislation. But none of the many viewpoints is essentially Marxist; not one of them is motivated primarily by consideration for the defensive interests of the Soviet Union or the genuine needs of the socialist movement in the capitalist countries. And therefore the Socialist Party position, whatever form it may take, can have no real revolutionary significance.

And the unsatisfied sectors of the peasantry, how long will they remain quiescent? The states where the land concentration is greatest and the land hunger and oppression most intense, the villages whose redemption is not even contemplated by the agrarian laws, the peasants whose essential needs are left unsatisfied when the distribution is over: when will their century-old accumulations of resentment break out anew?

Worker and peasant masses cannot continue year after year feeding on phrases and promise-crammed with their elementary life needs unfulfilled, and not become more and more exigent of fulfillment. The Communist Party cannot much longer continue the folly of the "People's Front" after the experiences of France and Spain. The next time the agrarian revolution breaks out, it may find a labor movement in the cities approaching maturity, ready to cut the leading strings that bind it to the government which is itself bound in turn by invisible but powerful restraints to American capital. If Zapata had found such a labor movement when his forces occupied Mexico City, there would be a different story to tell. When the Mexican proletariat comes of age, the Obregon-Calles-Cardenas pattern will no longer work. Then there will be a new situation in Mexico...

Perhaps the worst and most dangerous feature of all this "neutrality" legislation is that it inevitably tends to lull the masses under cover of which military and naval preparations may go unimpeded and plans be perfected for mass mobilization when war does break out. The great majority of the American people are certainly against war and dread the possibility that this country may be again involved in a European conflict. With "strict" neutrality legislation, in effect, they naturally tend to feel that the danger has been averted and that there is no longer anything to worry about. Then war breaks out and the whole imposing structure of laws and restrictions goes to pieces under the impact of reality; the masses are stunned, helpless, unprepared—easy victims of war hysteria and mass mobilization for slaughter. Perhaps, after all, this is the chief function of neutrality legislation!

What touching faith in the imperialistic powers whose business it will naturally be to operate the Kellogg Pact! Cannot the political experts of the C.P. conceive the possibility that, in a Soviet-German or Soviet-Japanese war, the Kellogg Pact powers may actually prove unreasonable or biased enough to declare the Soviet Union the "aggressor"? Stranger things have happened! Even the clever definition of "aggressor" offered here will not help much. It is perfectly meaningless in practical terms, whatever value it may have as a diplomatic formula. Again and again Lenin specifically repudiated this definition as a criterion in determining Marxist policy. Just to discover how deceptive this conception really is, let the official communist theoreticians of today try to apply it to the World War and see what they get. Or perhaps the era of imperialist wars is over and there aren't going to be any more such wars in the future?

The C.P. Against Civil War
But what shall we say about the Daily Worker recipe for "settling" civil wars? If we are to believe the plain sense of the words, then we must believe that the Communist Party stands ready to repudiate and to outlaw any "armed party or faction which by insurrection seeks to overthrow a democratic government"—and is even ready to demand that the United States government collaborate with

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Issue United May Day Call

A call for a united May Day demonstration has just been issued to all trade unions, fraternal organizations and political organizations. The conference, called by a provisional committee of 14 representatives of local trade union organizations, is to be held on Saturday, April 3, at 1 P. M. at Webster Hall, 119 E. 11th. The call is signed by A. Philip Randolph, pres. of the Sleeping Car Porters; Charles J. Hendley, president of the Teachers Union; Frank McGrath, president Boot and Shoe Workers Union; Louis Weinstock, secretary, Painters District Council No. 9; Sam Freeman, secretary, Painters District Council No. 18; Ben Gold, manager Furriers Joint Council; Frank Dutto Bakers Local 87; Brandon Sexton, chairman Workers Alliance of New York; Charles Blank, Suit Case Bag and Portfolio Workers Union; Geythan Lyons, Marine Cooks and Stewards Union; Harry Gewirtzman, International Pocketbook, Ladies Handbag and Novelty Workers Union; Sam Kramberg, Cafeteria Employees Local 302; Alexander Hoffman, Journeymen Tailors Union; Max Perlow, Furniture Woodworking Union.

The call follows in full:

The Call

"Labor in New York City is looking forward to celebrate May Day as the great and traditional day of labor solidarity and united working class demonstration against the forces of reaction.

"May Day, the great holiday of labor, born in the struggle of the American workers for the eight-hour day, will in 1937 reflect the gigantic upsurge of the trade union movement in America and the mighty battles for unionism and a better life for the millions of unorganized workers. Millions of unemployed have no wage income. Other millions almost starve on public works and public relief.

"May Day, 1937, will reflect the great struggles of the unemployed and labor generally to halt the attempts to further impoverish the millions of unemployed in this country. The marching columns of labor this year will raise high the banner of protest against the forces in American life seeking to perpetuate the dead hand of the Supreme Court on labor and progressive legislation.

"May Day, 1937, is coming when the mad powers of capitalism throughout the world—Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and militarist Japan—are still threatening to plunge the world into another bloody war. These fascist maniacs have already instigated the slaughter in Spain, whose people are now fighting so heroically to defend their liberty and the liberty of labor throughout the world. On May Day labor will demonstrate for peace and for solidarity with the heroic people of Spain.

"Let us, therefore, in New York City celebrate May Day, 1937, in a manner worthy of its great American traditions. Let all labor organizations without regard to differences that may still divide us, unite in a mighty demonstration in behalf of our common interests, in a demonstration against the system of fascism, war, exploitation, and oppression. Let May Day, 1937 demonstrate the militancy and the new spirit of unified struggle already permeating the entire American labor movement.

"All organizations of labor of whatever character or political tendency they may be, trade unions, political parties and fraternal organizations, are invited to this conference. We appeal to your organization to send delegates to this conference. Every organization is entitled to two delegates."

ON THE LABOR FRONT

● **WILLIAMSON, W. VA.**—The Central Labor union here endorsed the work of the CIO and rejected the expulsion notice of the A. F. of L. executive council. The resolution was signed by J. R. Dameron of the Carpenters Union, Buddy Prece of the Fire Fighters and O. H. Borton of the Typographical Workers.

● **WORCESTER, MASS.**—The C. L. U. expelled delegates from CIO unions representing 18,000 members. Locals of the United Textile Workers and International Ladies Garment Workers were affected. The fight for expulsion was led by A. F. of L. state organizer Frank P. Fenton.

● **SCRANTON, PA.**—The C. L. U. voted to file William Green's letter on ousting CIO unions. This

action, is significant in that only the delegates from the craft unions participated in the voting. Delegates from the locals of the United Mine Workers and the I. L. G. W. U. had not been affiliated for some time. The C. L. U. voted to ask them to join the central labor body.

● **BROWNSVILLE, PA.**—The Central Labor Union considered Green's letter and adopted a resolution asking the executive council to expel John P. Frey for anti-labor acts in negotiating with company unions. The body also voted to send a letter to the executive council asking it to end its disruptive campaign against the CIO unions. The letter calls for the reinstatement of the CIO unions with full membership rights.

Labor's Battle Of The Century

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pliotation and oppression, and for improved economic conditions. This means a fight for more economic independence. This is a fight for genuine unionism, or unionism completely independent of boss control as against dependent or company unionism.

Furthermore, industrial unionism is the only form, the sole way in which unions can secure effective legality, can attain such genuine legalization in the mass production industries, can build unions independent of boss ownership and control. It is one thing to press a pants manufacturer to the wall and get an agreement out of him; it's quite a different thing to force a Taylor, a Knudsen, a Fairless, a Teagle to the wall. Craft-unionism with its oxcart tempo and structure suited to smaller scale manufacture could never serve as the vehicle to carry the mighty mass of unskilled and semi-skilled out of the realms of industrial peonage and espionage.

Consequently, we cannot underscore too often and too heavily the fact that the CIO campaign for industrial unionism is a campaign for organizing the many millions in the still non-unionized heavy industries operating on a mass production basis. The CIO drive for industrial unionism is, therefore, not a war to destroy craft unions in industries where they are established agencies functioning effectively in defense of the work-a-day rights and everyday interests of the working men.

Struggle for Status

In the very nature of such a conflict new methods of struggle are born, old ideas of right and wrong are challenged and discarded and new class moral values are enthroned. Some of the employing class publicists have already stopped whining and have begun to do some thinking about this country-shaking onslaught of labor on the citadels of the open shop. For instance, Dorothy Thompson, estimating the campaign to make unions legal in the mass production industries, apparently is the beneficiary of more than one ray of light when she aptly says in the New York Herald Tribune:

"In the great industries of this country the trade union movement is still struggling for mere status. The movement is extremely weak. In the sit-down strike it is using the most effective possible weapon of the weak against the strong... This is a fight going on, a real fight for the status of something recognized by law but sabotaged by heavy industry in practice..."

This was on January 25th. Much has happened since, but the essential problem remains with us.

Under the banner of the CIO labor has scored spectacular victories, has marked milestone after milestone on the road towards economic and political independence. But we are still in the thick of the fight for actually legalizing unionism in the mass production industries. Though American labor has covered quite some territory on the road to a victorious conclusion of this battle, there is still many a class enemy position to be stormed and much ground to gain before we can say this battle for militant industrial unionism in the decisive economic sectors of the country has been completely won.

How shall we continue this campaign to insure final success? What moves should we make next? What obstacles must we hurdle? What pitfalls must we avoid?

These questions will be considered in the concluding article of this series in the next issue.

CIO Aids New Jersey Strike

Settlement of New Jersey's first major sit-down strike, involving 1100 out of a total of 1500 cigar and tobacco workers at the plant of I. Lewis Cigar Co., 165 Morrison Ave., Newark, New Jersey, was achieved with a \$2.00 a week raise for all workers. The strikers who are without a Union will continue their sit-down until the settlement agreement is in writing.

The news of the strike spread rapidly, because of the importance attached to its bearing on the recent ukase of Governor Hoffman that he would, if necessary, drown any and all sit-down strikes in New Jersey in blood. In a short time a large crowd of several hundred sympathizers and friends gathered in front of the factory and the infamous Hoffman police put in its appearance with the intention of cowering the strikers. The Police, however, in the face of the determined strikers, beat a strategic retreat and left the workers in full possession of the plant.

The C.I.O. Northern New Jersey Council in the meantime declared: "We want it understood we did not call this strike. The employees asked us for aid and we are going to give it to them. We are going to raise money for food and help them organize a union."

"These employees will be organized and granted a charter in the Cigar Makers' Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor. These people need organization and we will give them just that."

Reo Strike 100% Solid; Sit-Down Is Smoothly Organized

(Continued from Page 1)

parts but this was denied by the strike committee.

One significant event in the strike which is in contrast with others is that many of the company police are also members of the UAWA and are with the strikers.

Another significant event which sets the strike apart is the practically 100 per cent nature of the strike. The plant is over 90 per cent organized and the strike represents the decision of practically all Reo workers.

The biggest difficulty the first two days of the strike has been the organization of the food problem. The first night hurry calls were made to restaurants and meat shops in the south end of Lansing and sandwiches and coffee were served. The Women's Emergency Brigade has taken charge of the food and have taken over Goldies's Cafe opposite the plant completely for food service to the strikers. The food distribution and cooking has smoothed itself out and is working fine. Farmers in the area have begun to supply large quantities of food to the strikers, and support is being gained among the local merchants. Full menus comprise the three regularly served meals each day.

Games, recreation, music, and singing has been organized among the strikers and a fine spirit of solidarity prevails.

Over 1100 strikers are holding the plant and are located in five positions. The Reo plant is spread out over 80 acres, hence the division of workers is necessary. Workers are located at the number 1 and number 2 gates, the motor plant, the 4800 plant, and the bus plant. Because these groups are so far apart an impromptu messenger service has been organized.

No city police have made an appearance about the plant or in the vicinity. So far the situation has been exceedingly peaceful. All plants are on city streets and hence of easy access to those who might want to reach the strikers.

Today publicity was organized so that all reporters must get their news from a central office instead of wandering about the plants and picking up their stuff as they will. They are always accompanied by several strikers. None are permitted to get inside the plant unless they can produce Newspaper Guild cards.

Copies of the Lansing Auto Worker outlining the Reo demands have been distributed to all plants and a special strike edition will be issued this Saturday devoted entirely to the Reo strike.

The strike had not been over 8 hours old before a check for \$50. was received from the Lansing Typographical Union to help the strike fund.

The demands of the Lansing local from Reo are summarized as follows:

1. Sole collective bargaining for the UAWA.
2. A minimum rate of 70 cents an hour and a 10 cent an hour raise for all rates now over 70 cents.
3. Straight seniority.
4. 40-hour week and 8 hour day.
5. Time and a half for overtime.
6. Reduction of hours to 24 a week before any employee is laid off.

The Reo management is in a position to meet these demands as the UAWA comprises at least 90 per cent of the workers and the Reo is doing a fine business, having over 6,000 unfilled orders on its books.

Hochman Re-elected General Manager

Julius Hochman, veteran labor leader, has been unanimously re-elected General Manager of the powerful Joint Board of the Dress-makers' Union for the term ending March 1939.

Rounding out a decade of service at the helm of the Dress-makers' Union, Mr. Hochman has seen it climb from a membership of 18,000 to 102,000. He conducted the successful strike in 1933 that achieved 100% organization in the industry, large wage increases and the 35-hour week.

Early last year Mr. Hochman conducted the prolonged negotiations that resulted in the signing of an improved agreement with five employer associations in the field. It was the first time that an important agreement had been written without a strike. This agreement provided for settling prices direct with Jobbers thus eliminating the contractors as elements in the fixing of piece rates; and for limitation of contractors. Both have led to greatly increased stabilization in the industry.

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