

Voice Of
Socialism In
The West

LABOR ACTION

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of California

Workers Of
The World
Unite!

VOL. 1, NO. 4

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1936

Price 5 Cents

All China Aflame As Revolting Soldiers Imprison Dictator

Revolt of Soldiers at Sian Coincides With New Wave of Strikes and Revival Of Militant Student Movement

By LO SEN

Chiang Kai-shek, Kuomintang dictator, was made prisoner on December 12 at Sian, capital of Shensi province, by revolting soldiers who demanded an immediate declaration of war against Japanese imperialism.

This sudden and spectacular development took place at a time when all over the country signs were multiplying of a revival of the mass movement which has been for so long quiescent. There were strikes of Chinese workers in Japanese-owned cotton mills, 25,000 in Shanghai, 36,000 in Tsingtao, and a similar number in Tientsin. There have been renewed militant demonstrations by students in half a dozen leading centers. Soldiers stationed along the Suiyuan border quickly and successfully repelled the recent attempted invasion by Mongol troops sponsored by Japan.

Prospect Of Nationwide Auto Strike

Sit-down Movement Is Sweeping Entire Industry

DETROIT.—Will there be a nation-wide automobile industry strike soon?

This question with its many implications and possibilities is being posed by many acute observers of the trend of events in this gigantic industrial center.

There is a striking parallel between Detroit today and Akron, the rubber center of the world, of one year ago, when the United Rubber Workers of America began an industrial unionization campaign simultaneously with evidence of widespread dissatisfaction.

Bitter and resentful of speed-up and wage reductions, Akron rubber workers' protests took a new novel form—that of sit-down strikes.

Inside of three weeks, over 30,000 rubber workers had been directly involved in sit-downs. Each of the big plants, Firestone, Goodrich, and Goodyear, was shut down!

The wave of sit-downs culminated in the successful five-week Goodyear strike, won primarily by the indomitable courage and militancy of the rank and file, led by newly-developed progressives, assisted by socialists and directed by the Committee for Industrial Organization.

AUTO SIT-DOWNS

A similar wave of sit-downs has swept through this automotive center. Most dramatic of which was the recently won Midland Steel strike.

The Bendix strike focused nationwide attention on this sharp weapon of the working class. The Midland strike again proved its value. Scores of auto-parts plants, auto factories, and steel plants have been shut down for periods of time while the workers obtained adjustment of their grievances.

The terrific pace of work accelerated by the new 1937 model machinery in the auto plants is chiefly the cause of the auto workers' unrest. He is manifesting his protest audibly. In the parlance of

(Continued on Page 2)

Bloodhounds

By Carlo



New Negotiations Point To An Early Strike Settlement On Unions' Basic Terms

Talk of "Arbitration" Eliminated and Negotiations Get Down to Brass Tacks On Real Issues of Strike

The iron solidarity of the Maritime Unions brought new negotiations directly with the shipowners during the past week which give promise of bringing the seven-week-old strike to an early conclusion with the concession of the unions' basic demands. The negotiations, which began between Thomas G. Plant, chairman of the shipowners' committee and Harry Lundeborg, secretary of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, were

widened early this week to include E. J. Burke, of the Marine Cooks and Stewards, and J. E. Ferguson, representing the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers Association.

As the situation shaped up over the week-end, and the talk of "arbitration" and speculation on Government intervention cleared away like a fog, one fact stood out clearly and sharply: The bosses have been brought around to a more reasonable attitude, by the united economic action of the workers.

The ambiguous situation of two months ago has been radically changed in favor of the unions by a militant strike policy.

The struggle between the workers and the shipowners is a class struggle. The issue in every case is decided by power. The power of the workers is always tested in the last analysis by their ability and readiness to tie up the ships. This is the heart and core of militant trade union policy. No other policy is worth a cent.

Strike Wave in England
The strike wave that has been sweeping the continent of Europe is spreading to England. The Spinners and Cardroom Operatives are taking a strike vote. About 100,000 textile workers are involved. A small stay-in strike, one of the first reported in England, recently took place in an anthracite colliery in South Wales.

S.F. Socialists Move To New Headquarters

New headquarters for the Socialist Party in San Francisco at 236 Van Ness Avenue will be occupied within a few days. The gains of the party local during the strenuous election campaign and the launching of Labor Action made the move imperative.

The new location is one of the most spacious in the labor movement, according to competent observers. Two halls, one an auditorium seating 400 persons—the other smaller and suitable for party meetings—will afford excellent facilities for propaganda-meetings, forums, etc. Office space will be ample for the state offices of the Party and the YFSL, and the editorial and business offices of Labor Action. In addition, there will be a buffet, which promises to become the most congenial luncheon spot in the city.

As yet no name for the new center has been selected. Several have been suggested, such as "Labor Center" and "International Hall." The Headquarters Committee asks that all comrades send in appropriate suggestions.

The first major affair to be held will be a Masquerade Dance on New Year's Eve.

Prohibit Strikes In Ecuador
Prohibition of strikes and formation of police terror was decreed by the government of Ecuador, Dec. 3. Any hall or meeting place can be entered by police without warrants, and the use of arms to suppress any disturbance is legally permissible, according to the decree.

Colleges are being supervised by army officers in a direct move to suppress any freedom of teaching. The decree also declared the Communist party illegal in Ecuador.

Strikers Have Social Club At New Orleans

Ten Thousand Meals Served in New Mess Hall

By Louise Stevens Jensen

At the beginning of the maritime strike, the rank and file seamen were ousted from their union hall by the combined efforts of the police and the I. S. U. officials. After raiding a meeting of strikers held in the I. S. U. headquarters, and arresting over a hundred men, the police announced that the strike headquarters was "permanently closed," and that pickets would be cleared off the streets.

The answer of the strikers was the establishment of the Maritime Social Club at 321 Chartres St. This organization is chartered under the laws of the state of Louisiana as a "social and benevolent organization," and its inception is mainly the work of the deck hands, firemen and stewards. "Pink" headquarters is at the old address, 544 Camp St. Here the officials of the I. S. U. are shipping scabs. A few blocks away, on the second and third floors of a building whose lower floor is occupied by the office and press room of the Federationist, A. F. of L. labor paper, the Maritime Social Club is a beehive of strike activity.

STRIKERS' MESS HALL
The third floor is occupied by the mess hall, where between ten and eleven thousand meals have been served. The stove, ice box, tables, and other equipment were loaned to the seamen by the restaurant supply house next door. During the last two weeks, the men have consumed two whole cows, butchered and shipped by farmers in Louisiana who are showing their solidarity with the strikers.

Below, on the second floor, administrative offices for the conduct of the strike have been set up. The Joint Strike Committee is the hub of all activity. There are sub-committees for publicity, finance, investigation and housing.

MEERS ARRESTED TWICE
The steamship companies, police and I. S. U. officials have made every effort to keep Robert Meers, the chairman of the Joint Strike Committee, in jail. He has been arrested twice. On the last occasion, the police invaded a mass meeting, mounted the platform and announced in a way that they tried to make dramatic, that Meers was under arrest for assault and robbery.

He was charged at police headquarters with having stolen seven dollars from a seaman. His bond was placed at twenty-five thousand dollars. The seaman who was alleged by the police to have made the charge, later stated that he had himself been taken to the district attorney's office by the police, where a paper was placed before him which he was commanded to sign. He did not know that the paper was an affidavit accusing Meers of robbery. When he found what he had done, he voluntarily came to strike headquarters, the legal committee, and was taken to a notary where he signed a statement branding as false, his "accusation" against Meers.

Out in the river, the "strikers' navy"—two gasoline launches, ply up and down, carrying leaflets and "water pickets."

The publicity committee is sending speakers to all sorts of organizations. These efforts have borne fruit in a changed attitude on the part of police, capitalist press, and the public. There have been practically no arrests (except Meers) for a week, the New Orleans Item Tribune prints pictures of the dining room at the Maritime Social Club, and of Meers in his office, and the public is responding by donating money and food.

Retrenchment Hits WPA Workers In Big National Drive

From N. Y. to California Administration Ax Falls On Unemployed Victims Of Roosevelt Victory

The unemployed who voted so hopefully for Roosevelt are getting it in the neck with a vengeance. Federal WPA and relief projects are being drastically curtailed all over the country, starting less than a month after the election. On November 23, the Administration announced that 3,000 white collar workers were being dropped from the rolls in New York City, and an undisclosed number have been on the list for firing all over the country since that time.

New Order Cuts WPA Nearly Half

Curtailment Program Would Put 6,000 Out in S. F.

Last week an order to the local WPA headquarters from Ellen S. Woodward, head of the Women's and Professional Division of WPA projects, Washington, D. C., directed that the following cuts in WPA personnel be made in California:

Art, 125; music, 482; theatre, 421; writers, 140; historical records survey, 15.

Similar cuts were also ordered for the manual and non-skilled WPA projects, affecting up to 40 per cent and 50 per cent of the personnel.

SECOND "WALK-IN"

Tuesday, Dec. 8 a second "walk-in" was staged by 75 writers at the office of James Hopper, State Director of the Writers' Project, since no reply had been received from the telegram sent (as a result of the Friday, Dec. 4 walk-in) to Henry G. Alsberg, National Director of Writers' Projects, Washington, D. C.

This time Hopper talked by phone with Mr. Alsberg, incorporating his own protests, with those of the workers, against "the brutal and sudden lay-offs."

A stormy session followed at the office of State Administrator, Frank Y. McLaughlin. Mr. McLaughlin, shouting violently, absolutely refused to protest against any dismissals to Harry Hopkins, disclaimed any responsibility whatsoever for the WPA unemployment crisis in California, and announced his determination to do nothing about it.

If these discharges are carried out in San Francisco, where there are now approximately a total of 15,000 WPA workers, more than 6,000 persons will be thrown into the ranks of the jobless by Christmas and forced onto direct relief—if they can get it.

STRIKERS DENIED RELIEF
This situation casts an interesting sidelight on the current maritime strike. State Head of the S.F.A., Small, refuses to grant maritime strikers direct relief and has now ruled they must accept WPA jobs (which would take them off the picket-line).

Cultural, sewing, and other non-public works projects designed to absorb some of the vast army of unemployed are being dropped entirely; other projects are being drastically curtailed, and wage cuts all down the line have been promised or already put in effect.

"RETRENCHMENT NECESSARY"
Jim Farley, travelling comfortably on the cream skimmed off the campaign to keep the democratic job-holders in power, issued a statement to the press from Ireland stating that WPA is to be abandoned entirely and relief placed in the hands of localities. Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Ickes have issued a statement that retrenchment is necessary in view of the alleged fact that "thousands of workers are being reabsorbed into private industry. They seem to forget that the unemployment figure runs into millions!"

With the consistency of an Alice-in-Wonderland Judge, Harry Hopkins—in the same speech in which he called for retrenchment—admitted that even after industry has absorbed some of the unemployed because of the return to prosperity there will be from six to seven million unemployed, and the National Industrial Conference Board—on the same day—announced the number of unemployed to be 8,975,000.

In California 20,000 are being dropped, and in southern states projects are being cut even down to some of the \$21 per month laborers. Hiding behind the New York scheme whereby an "investigation of need" has been instituted, workers will be dropped from jobs without redress.

RESISTANCE ORGANIZED
Under the auspices of the Workers Alliance nationally, a plan is being launched to organize a mass protest against this retrenchment. According to David Lasser, National Chairman of the Workers' Alliance, there will be an organized march on Washington by workers not only on WPA projects, but those on direct relief if local pressure in various parts of the country does not result in stopping the layoffs before the first of the year.

The "walk-in" epidemic which has considerably raised the temperature of local officials and state administrators of WPA is country-wide. From Reading, Pa., comes the slogan "strike to live" as WPA workers laid down their tools last week in protest, and a great awakening is taking place in most of the major cities of the country as more and more of the unemployed project workers realize what can be expected from the Democratic messiah.

Unemployed Get Their White House Christmas Presents Early This Year

By CRARY TRIMBLE

Again the time rolls 'round for the annual Christmas swap. The Jones family lies awake nights trying to remember what the Smiths gave them last Christmas so there won't be any surplus value in what they return this time. People are playing the customary guessing game to make sure they cover the possible donations without making the mistake of distributing to those who may not reciprocate.

Exploiters of labor are full of "good will toward men" and are donating "liberally" for the baskets which are supposed to produce a year of gratitude in return for one square meal.

POLITICAL SANTA

The political slant on this Christmas of all Christmases in the year of Our Lord Prosperity, 1936, is particularly interesting. Millions voted for Santa Claus on November 3. The Communists told bed-time horror stories to the workers

about how there wouldn't be any Santa Claus unless they "defeated London at all costs," and so they hung up their stockings (and ballots to you) for Roosevelt on November 3 for a "free, happy and prosperous America." The Democrats dangled the plums of WPA and other paternalistic projects, without committing themselves too definitely. The Republicans tried to play Santa Claus, too, but nobody believed them.

An unfortunate error was made, however. The workers failed to mark their ballots "Do not open until Christmas." The White House Santa Claus is already beginning to hand out the gifts for "value received." Jim Farley, who did the guessing, and Harry Hopkins, who keeps the records of the Smiths and Joneses, got together (even before the ballots began to roll in) and laid the plans for Christmas to the unemployed. The boys around the White House

know the secret of value, and the amount of weight there is in a paper ballot with nothing but a wish and a hope behind it.

"NICE PRESENTS"

Already the Christmas presents are being handed out to WPA workers in the form of dismissal slips, project cuts, and wage reductions all down the line. A very merry Christmas from the White House to the loyal voters for freedom to starve, happiness by proxy, and prosperity to the capitalists.

There's one encouraging bit of news, however. The unemployed, at least in San Francisco, have learned the meaning of the "annual swap." Plans are being made to bring Christmas cheer to the White House. In appreciation of the spirit of Christmas as they now understand it, they will send to the White House a generous box of selected turkey bones—well picked.

All China Aflame As Revolting Soldiers Imprison Dictator

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 was this order which precipitated a revolt in the ranks of the soldiers. Chiang Kai-shek, who was at a town just outside of Sian, rushed to the city to help repress the revolt. Instead the soldiers made him their prisoner, striking a blow at his "face" (prestige) from which Chiang Kai-shek, hitherto the invincible, may find it exceedingly difficult to recover.

At this stage, Chang Hsueh-ling stepped into the picture, announced that Chiang Kai-shek was his prisoner and sent a telegram around the country demanding a declaration of war against Japan. Chang is acting in this situation in response to the pressure of his army ranks which he dares not any longer resist, and may be consciously driving, himself, toward a bargain of some kind with Moscow. This would seem to be indicated by the text of his telegram, which advocated a pact with the Chinese Communists and with the Soviet Union. This would indeed be a twist rich with a ghastly sort of irony, for Chang was the ruler of one of the most savagely oppressive regimes the world has ever known, and, moreover, was in 1929 the direct instrument of the imperialist powers in an attack on the Soviet Union which the Soviet Red Army smashed quickly with a few decisive blows.

Chang's move at Sian this week caught the Nanking politicians quite literally with their pants down. It is composed of conflicting cliques of politicians which Chiang alone was able to hold together. If the soldiers in Sian hold on tightly to their precious prisoner we can expect to see a rapid differentiation and possibly a break-up at Nanking. The big question would now seem to be: "Who will jump on what bandwagon?"

Will Chiang's many opponents decide that the weasel-wise generalissimo has finally been outsmarted and join the tide against him? Or will the revolt prove short-lived and will Chang Hsueh-ling come to terms?

All the experience of the past fifteen years in China has proved that a real anti-imperialist struggle, a real national revolutionary war against imperialism, will be organized by the revolutionary workers and peasants and sections of the petty bourgeoisie, without and against all these generals whose records, without exception, are records of capitulation to imperialism and terror against the masses. These leopards will not change their spots overnight.

This means that the task of revolutionists today in China is to arouse the broadest possible mass movement in the army, in the factories and in the field, for the struggle against the imperialist invader. No trust whatever must be placed in any of the generals who for this or other reason today mouth anti-imperialist phrases. The Shensi soldiers' revolt can become a real rallying point. The Reds can march in from the west. Chang Hsueh-ling can be forced to join Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in a military dungeon. A new banner can be raised. To this banner millions will rally if they know that it means for them the end of all exploitation.

The Chinese peasant in Hunan and Hupeh may be dubious about fighting to recover Manchuria. But he knows what it means to fight to win back his land from the landlord! During the mass movement in 1927 the Chinese peasant translated the term "unequal treaties" (referring to the privilege-pacts of the imperialists) to mean the contracts with the landlords. On this plane the Chinese peasant will fight and will fight brilliantly and heroically, as he has proved on a thousand battlefields. The Chinese worker will be brought to his feet not if he is told to "keep quiet about his own miserable conditions, but only that he is organized to fight against those conditions. Out of these mass struggles will emerge the real fighting forces to wage a national revolutionary war!"

Picket Jail At Allentown In Mill Strike

Socialists in Allentown, Pa., have been embarrassing prison officials who are engaged in an inter-county collaboration against picketing on strike at the Berkshire knitting mills. Walter Hehn, secretary of the Allentown Socialist Party, issued a resolution passed by the local, which was printed in full in the capitalist press of that city on December 7, protesting the transfer from the Berks to the Lehigh County Jail of the 139 "lie-down" pickets arrested December 5.

The resolution condemned "the action of the county officials in housing in the Lehigh county jail those class struggle prisoners of Berks county," and demanded that they return these prisoners, "who have not committed a crime against society, but rather are endeavoring to better the conditions of the working class," to Berks county, and "refuse to take any more."

THE STORY OF THE MOSCOW TRIAL

The Balance Sheet of "The Greatest Frameup in History"

By GLEN TRIMBLE

On August 15th, 1936, sixteen men were arraigned by the Russian state prosecutor on charges of conspiring, together with the German Fascist Government and Leon Trotsky, to assassinate the seven most prominent Soviet leaders, and of the actual murder of S. M. Kirov, another high Soviet official. Nine days later the trial had ended, the sixteen were sentenced to die. In less than twenty-four hours more, an appeal for mercy had been rejected and the defendants were dead.

In that ten-day span the names of old Bolsheviks implicated in a crime the prosecutor described as that of "mad Fascist dogs" mounted until the total was almost a complete roll-call of the leaders of the Russian revolution. Certainly no historian from extreme left to extreme right could deny that without these men the worker's victory in Russia would have been impossible.

There was the chief target of the trial, exiled leader of the Red Army, Leon Trotsky, of whom Stalin himself wrote in 1918, "One can say with full certainty that the rapid passage of the garrison

to the side of the Soviet and the skillful work of the Revolutionary War Committee, the party owes primarily and above all to Comrade Leon Trotsky."

Gregory Zinoviev, chairman of the Communist International (on Lenin's motion) until 1925; Leon Kamenov, seven years chairman of the Moscow Soviet; Ivan Smirnov, the "Lenin of Siberia;" Gregory Yevdokimov, official party speaker at Lenin's funeral; Vagarsk Ter-Vaganyan, leader of the revolution in Armenia; Alexis Rykov, thirty years a member of the Central Committee; Karl Radek, editor of the official Izvestia; Michael Tomski, director of the State Publishing office, these and literally hundreds of others, all under arrest, all members or ex-members from the Communist Party, all with a place in the Who's Who of the Revolution, NONE from the right or center parties before 1917.

These are the men who are charged with preferring individual terrorism to Marxist socialism, Nazi fascism to the Russian worker's government. This in the Soviet Union where by official announcement it is "supreme joy to live," where socialism is already "irrevocably" triumphant.

Confession of Tyranny

Even if the literal truth of the Government trial-charge is accepted it is a complete confession of internal unrest and of the tyranny which alone creates such unrest. At face value the trial is a damning indictment of socialism. If thirty to forty years of work for, and nineteen years of experience in, socialism produces such traitors.

The more damning because now, after years of discouraging setbacks and demoralizing retreat in Italy, Germany, Austria and a dozen other nations, the horizon of world revolution is again bright with promise. The red sun is rising in Spain and with it the hope of socialists in every part of the world. Yet, at this very moment, the great leaders of the Russian Revolution turn to Hitler's Nazism!

Surely, if the charges of the Moscow trial are true, all of us had better forget our ideals, mark off our sacrifice as dead loss and quietly surrender to capitalism, war and fascism.

But the charges are not true! They are shameful, transparent, hideous lies! Every free-minded revolutionary socialist has known this on instinct and past experience.

Contradictory Testimony

Mad, too, is the conduct of the prosecutor. Witnesses contradict each other on every conceivable point—names, dates, policies, deeds—until the whole farce passes over into the "never-never land" of the abnormal, yet the prosecutor makes no effort whatever to reconcile testimony, to check contradictions and construct a coherent case. A single page of testimony quotes three different witnesses as giving three different years for the same important event. And, on the same page, the prosecutor sums the three up as proving one another!

Only in a bad dream can we lose our ties to space and time and be where we are not. Only in a bad dream—or in a Soviet trial. The "confessors" solemnly testify that I. N. Smirnov was "in constant touch" with the "Trotskyist-Zinoviev Center" for the last four years. Smirnov was in a G.P.U. prison from January 1, 1933, until his execution! Through-out 1932 the Hitlerite secret police through Gestapo chief Himmler directed "center" activity according to "confessors" and prosecutor. The Gestapo was not organized, Himmler was not its head, and

Hitler was not in power until 1933!

Most marvelous of all was the 1932 rendezvous of Trotsky's son Sedov, with a self "confessed" terrorist in Copenhagen, where Sedov has never been, in the Hotel Bristol, which was torn down in 1917 and reopened at the very time the trial was in progress.

Equally consistent with a nightmare, and with nothing else, is the manner in which trained Marxists, who had spent twenty, thirty and forty years writing and speaking against individual terror in Russia, where the issue was by no means a theoretical or a minor one, are "confessed" turn coats, complete terrorists in the twinkling of an eye. By actual "confession" not one in the hundreds approached even hesitated, let alone denounced this reversal of life-time conviction and exposed the plot. This story may convince the middle-class innocents who picture Bolsheviks with a smoking bomb in either hand. It is sheer nonsense to all who have the slightest knowledge of the relentless opposition of all Socialists since Marx to the policy of individual terror.

Mass Meeting Of Strikers At Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 12.—Striking maritime workers at San Pedro will hold a huge mass meeting at Olympic Auditorium on December 27 to offset the publicity barrage unleashed by shipowners, it was announced by President Roy Donnelly of the San Pedro longshoremen's local.

The two most important factors in shipowner strategy, said Donnelly last Friday night to the members of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council, are:

1. To enlist public sympathy on the side of the shipowners by placing the onus of failure to settle on the strikers.

2. To starve the strikers into submission.

He asserted a two-million-dollar fund had been collected to put this ship owner campaign into effect.

Practically all Los Angeles un-

Fishermen's Union Wins

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5.—An increase of \$2 per ton and complete unionization of the industry was won by the Deep Sea and Purse Seine Fishermen's Union as they went back to work this week after a two-week strike.

Fish cannery workers, who followed the fishermen out on strike, are reported to have won an increase of five cents per hour, as they followed the fishermen back to work.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5.—A new anti-picketing law even more vicious than the one used against agricultural strikers last summer, was last week adopted by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

ions, it was disclosed, have voted assessments of 25 cents per member per week to support the maritime unions, with first receipts announced as over \$3,000.

Elmer Bruce, strikers' publicity representative, is scheduled to speak tomorrow night at the Socialist Party Sunday Night Forum at 116½ West 9th Street.

Tales From A Dream World

The dream-fabric of the amazing "confessions" is best proved by the futility of the entire plot. Just as the dreamer wades through seeming years of frustrated effort, always almost, but never quite reaching his goal, so do the plotters of the Trotskyist-Zinoviev Center spend actual years with a total result of absolute zero. The combined resources of men who made the Russian revolution and defended it against world capitalist counter-revolution, of Hitler's Secret Police (highly effective from Berlin to the corners of the earth), of Trotsky's thousands of followers outside the Soviet Union, tried for four years to assassinate seven men and failed even to pull a single trigger! The lives of Stalin and Company

had a charm that beats Achilles and the Arabian Nights all hollow! There can be only one reason for the complete failure of the conspiracy—there was no conspiracy.

"But Kirov was killed." True, and more than a hundred unnamed "White Guards" were executed. They and the Lettish government were declared guilty—so guilty that no trial was ever held. A year and a half later 15 men are executed for the same killing. Neither "White Guards" or Lettish Government are mentioned. One crime, two entirely different explanations, two verdicts of guilt and two mass executions. One of the two is necessarily a judicial murder. One? Both!

Confessions Made To Order

During this last trial there was not a single piece of material evidence introduced, the entire case was based upon the oral "confessions" of sixteen men.

These confessions have been the last ditch answer of Stalinists to all criticism. "Why did they confess?" The answer is that ALL THE ACCUSED AT ALL PUBLIC TRIALS HAVE CONFESSED since Stalin won complete control in the Soviet Union and began wiping out, exiling and jailing the Old Bolsheviks. The trials of the Ramzin "wreckers" and the "Menshevik Union Bureau" followed the same pattern—no documentary evidence, oral "spontaneous and voluntary" confessions, complete penitence and praise for Stalin. Today the falsehood of previous confessions is incontestably proved and the GPU methods of mental and physical torture which extracted them is known. In every case those not ready to "confess" were never given public trial—they simply disappeared.

In the present case out of a much larger number implicated only sixteen were given public trial. Of these none were actually political opponents of Stalin. They were ex-Zinovievists, ex-Trotskyists, who had been broken and forced to recant years ago. The leaders, Zinoviev and Kamenov, had renounced their opinions and pledged obedience to Stalin FIVE TIMES in the past. They were all men broken to harness, their wills shattered, their principles traded for a party card, their previous record one of choice of menial and degrading service rather than prison cells. These were the "confessors" of the Moscow trial.

Yet a spark was left. The testimony bears unmistakable evidence that the chief actors, overplayed, BURLESQUED their parts. No GPU scenario writer could have been quite so inept, so contradictory, so out of line with revolutionary experience as was the actual performance of this shoddy farce.

More 'Trials' To Come

The trial is over but, by official announcement, it is only a prelude of more to come. Official press reports record a steady stream of new arrests throughout the Soviet Union. On a world scale the verdict is used by the branch offices of the Comintern as basis for vindictive attack on all revolutionary Socialists.

I have outlined and summarized, briefly and inadequately the breath-taking content of Max Shachtman's "Moscow Trial." The book must be read to appreciate its unanswerable logic, its relentless marshalling of facts, its exposure of absurdity on absurdity, its devastating irony.

The story is not pleasant reading. One emerges feeling that he has made an excursion through a pest-house. Even to think of the diabolic process which wrung out "confession" after "confession" from February, 1936, to mid-August when the last, the hero of the Armenian revolution, was broken, makes normal flesh crawl.

Why, then am I writing about it? Why should we read or think

about it? With the million crimes of capitalism which attack the Soviet Union? These questions open up an easy and tempting way out. The same way that middle-class liberals take out of the class war. They wish it away by closing their eyes to it. The first duty of every revolutionary Socialist is a duty to truth. Facts must be faced and our scientific view of society built from, not in spite of, them.

Precisely because the Soviet Union is to all of us the greatest basis for hope for a Socialist world. Because the victory of the workers in a nation of 168,000,000 people, covering a sixth of the world's surface, stands as a monument to the fact that Socialism can be won. Because it forever refutes the reactionary cry that "Socialism has never worked and never will." Because of these things we must face the facts about the Soviet Union and defend it against its enemies both without and within. The Soviet Union belongs to the workers of the world, not to Stalin or his bureaucracy.

Stalin Stands Indicted

This is why the Moscow trial is vitally important to us. This is why we cannot ignore its lessons. Stalin was not trying sixteen men; he was trying the revolutionary socialist movement of the world. The verdict was intended to justify "socialism in one country" and forever discredit the fighters for world revolution. Already the trial has proved a boom-erang. Stalin, not world revolution, stands indicted.

Not least among the fundamental points of that indictment is the complete suppression of free opinion, of truth and of logic in the propaganda of the Comintern. For free opinion is substituted a program of ruthless suppression, soul-breaking, compulsory and disgraceful public adulation of a single man. Logic is replaced by the Alice in Wonderland theory that ANYTHING said three times is true. Truth is cynically dismissed because, in Mark Twain's words, "A lie can circle the earth during the time that truth is putting on its shoes."

Where will this course lead? The reactionaries are in no doubt. A Boston capitalist daily gleefully editorializes that the Moscow trial has lined up the Third International against a wall and shot it down. How true this is, is shown in the fate of the highest Soviet body, the Political Bureau. Of the men who composed it in Lenin's day, Lenin is dead, Zinoviev and Kamenov are murdered, Tomsky was driven to suicide, Trotsky and Rykov are charged

with assassination—only Stalin remains!

Equally discerning is the statement of a French fascist leader M. Henri de Kerillys in Echo de Paris: "Was it necessary to destroy the Trotskyists for good?" he asks and replies: "Whatever the special methods of the Soviet police may be, it is nevertheless impermissible to conclude therefrom that European order has anything to gain from the triumph of the 'Trotskyist' extremists. Antagonism to the Moscow regime must not go to the point of acknowledging so dangerous a doctrine as the permanent revolution. Suppose for a minute that Leon Trotsky were to be in Stalin's place: Hundreds of Soviet planes would already be in Spain. And that says everything."

"That indeed, says everything. For revolutionary socialists it is a call to arms. This must be the last mock trial. Protests already made by every Socialist Party in Europe against the persecution of Trotsky must be redoubled. The honor of the revolutionary movement must be vigorously defended. The constant fight for World Socialism goes on!"

Can't Afford Potatoes

Potatoes, formerly the daily staple on the menu of the Cuban workers, are now beyond the reach of the exploited masses of Cuba. Three times a week is the most employed workers in Cuba can afford potatoes.

The Action Army

By FRANK STERN

Ye editor got so excited with the excellence of our column last week that he slapped in a screaming by-line—so you'll have to forgive an Irish sense of humor running wild. The by-line should really go to the all-star sub-chaser this week who is none other than Ernest Peri of Los Angeles who registered a club of ten. Okay Ernest—let us know which of the original cartoon drawings you want and we'll ship it to you.

PDQ. Keep up the swell work.

Tied for second place are Millie Goldberg, secretary of local San Francisco, and Chester Johnson, champ literature plugger for Minneapolis, with an even half dozen each. Let us know which cartoons you want prints of and we'll have them wrapped and shipped—and all you have to do is get the frame.

Crary and Glen Trimble insist that they're really one and turn in five between them to come in a dead heat with local San Francisco. We can't give the Trimbles a prize because they work on the staff and have an "in," but local "Frisco" can have a picture to decorate the wall of the local office.

Bill Muhl of Stanford Univer-

Crisis In Fields At San Diego

By Richard Fraser

SAN DIEGO.—Throughout the agricultural areas of Southern California, as the first weeks of December roll by, the order is given to "put on paper." This order ushers in an acute stage: the harvest of the vast celery crop.

For the workers it means the beginning of one of the few winter crops, sending thousands of cold and hungry families of workers all over the country into migration, bringing about a concentration of workers in Southern California. For the few Agricultural Unions which have withstood the merciless reaction that has swept California for the past few years it means a new struggle. For those Unions, which have warded off the countless attacks by Vigilante bands, Police, company thugs, etc., it means another crisis. They must be able to hold themselves together in the face of an overstocked labor market. The struggle will soon burst out again throughout the camps. In the San Diego area it means just that—another struggle in defense of the Unions.

The order given the San Diego workers to "put on paper" immediately turns the eyes of the Agricultural workers all over the state upon San Diego, centering their whole attention upon the outcome of the struggle.

It is quite true that the importance of San Diego in relation to the celery crop as a whole is not great; San Diego produces but about 10 per cent of the celery grown in the state. However, due to the fact that the San Diego area gives one of the few and by far the most complete expression of Agricultural Unions in California, its reputation has gone far and wide. There exists the general feeling throughout the camps, not entirely unfounded, that the coming struggle in San Diego is a test which may determine the course of Unionism in agriculture in this State for some time to come.

FIGHTING SPIRIT

In 1912 San Diego gave to the labor movement one of its most famous free-speech battles when the IWW took up the challenge flung at the workers by the Railroad Companies and the barons of agriculture. The fighting spirit of the old movement lives on in the Agricultural Unions of today and it is very possible that the activities of these Unions this winter may be equally as significant as the heroic struggles of their precursor.

Transients Have Rights!

LOS ANGELES.—Approved by the Board of Supervisors last Wednesday was Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz' refusal to participate in the transient blockade of Los Angeles County.

His investigators found no alarming influx of transients, Biscailuz reported, and further, his counsel had advised him all travelers had constitutional rights to enter the county.

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sity, who is one of our most consistent Action Army pluggers and runner up for all-time first place, squeezed in under the wire with a club of four just as we started to write this column. Pick your work of art Bill—and get wound up for a chance at that monthly prize of Trotsky's "History of the Russian Revolution."

Also heard from in the way of subs are Saunders of Washington, D. C., Finlan and Hanman of Berkeley, Joe Hansen and George Coe of San Francisco, Grace Stahlecker and Mrs. McCauley of Palo Alto, Jean Rudd of Denver, and various and sundry others who couldn't get in clubs of four but who are valiantly plugging in pairs and threes to build Labor Action. And then we mustn't forget one James Patrick Cannon who pulled a couple of subs out of somewhere and turned them in to us.

The business manager wants to take this opportunity to welcome Doug Anderson and Mrs. Doug into the Action Army. They don't know it yet but in a couple of weeks they're going to be the No. 1 Action Armyites. For the information of the general public Comrades Doug and Lenea Anderson are touring the west on a Red Special truck tour. Welcome "foot-loose Rebels of the west."

And the same goes for Ken Bristol of Local San Francisco who is taking a swing through Utah in the joint capacity of Action Army organizer and "Foot-loose Rebel."

AWARDS

We publish above for the first time in this column the names of the winners of Labor Action awards for service to the revolutionary press. Everyone is eligible for these awards. For every club of four—a print of any cartoon appearing in Labor Action prepared suitably for framing.

The highest score every week gets the original drawing of a cartoon appearing in Labor Action. These drawings are extremely valuable and are drawn by the best labor cartoonist in the country.

For the comrade turning in the greatest amount of subs for the month we are awarding a three-volume set of Trotsky's "History of the Russian Revolution," or any book of equal value which the winner may choose.

The business manager will be more than glad to accept all suggestions possible from readers on building circulation. Let's hear from Action Army members everywhere.

And most important of all—let's build Labor Action into a powerful weapon for Socialism in the West.



The first and only work on the sensational trial of Zinoviev, Kamenov and the fourteen others who were executed for plotting the assassination of Soviet leaders

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The Spanish Revolution Is In Mortal Danger! Let The Truth Be Known!

Concerted Attempt To Rob Workers Of Fruit Of Victory

By ALFREDO ROJAS

While the Spanish proletarian armies stoutly defend Madrid and carry the war against the enemy on the other fronts, developments abroad and in the rear reveal a concerted attempt to rob the workers of the fruits of the victory which they are gaining with such tremendous sacrifices.

The Spanish Revolution is in mortal danger! Let the truth be known!

The French and British Proposal

The tenacity with which France and Britain have barred any aid to anti-fascist Spain and have kept the preposterous non-intervention committee going while it served as a cover for Italo-German aid to General Franco, proved that these "democratic" nations are determined to come to terms with Italy and Germany at the expense of the Spanish masses. Now Britain and France have taken an ominous step forward in their scheme to "solve" the Spanish crisis by a deal with Hitler and Mussolini.

Their proposal, last week, for new methods of barring aid to "either" side in Spain was no mere attempt to refurbish the prestige of the non-intervention committee. The real teeth in the new proposal is in the provisions for an armistice and an internationally supervised plebiscite. Behind these provisions is the plan, discussed for a month in all the European chancelleries and which broke into the press when a Catalan-bourgeois delegation was discovered in Paris dickering with the French government a few weeks ago, a plan to set up one or more bourgeois republics in the anti-fascist territory and to relinquish to General Franco the sovereignty of the territory he holds.

This ultra-reactionary scheme has the "virtue" of enabling Franco's allies who have recognized his government, Italy and Germany, to retreat from their insistence that Franco take over all Spain, and further "virtue" that European capitalism would thereby be provided with a gendarme-state, in Spanish territory, as a threat

against any attempt by the revolutionary proletariat of Catalonia and Valencia to carry out the social revolution.

Scheme Finds Support in Valencia

That this conspiracy against the Spanish masses is supported by at least some of the bourgeois elements in the Spanish government is revealed by a dispatch in the New York Times of December 13th from Valencia, the present seat of the government. Written by the correspondent, L. A. Fernsworth, who recently protested to American Catholic authorities against Catholic support of the Fascists, and is, therefore, deserving of some credence, the dispatch indicates that the popular desire for a federation of Iberian republics is being utilized for a completely reactionary content:

"The question is being discussed whether some form of federal government, composed of a series of autonomous states, each of which would solve its own problems according to its own methods, might not be a formula for future arrangements. . . . Then both Right and Left, each in its own particular house and garden, might again become neighbors who salute each other regardless of their peculiar ways of managing their households."

Needless to say, the desire of the Catalan, Basque and Valencian masses for autonomy has nothing in common with this capitalist scheme. The masses drive toward autonomy is toward the national liberation developed by Lenin and Trotsky, of a federation of socialist republics, with a uniform socialist economy.

Catalan Workers Bar the Way

The Catalan proletariat, dominating the chief industrial and commercial center of Spain, bars the way to the scheme for partitioning Spain.

Only two weeks ago, the vigilance of the Catalan workers thwarted a plot connected with the partition scheme. The first—and only—press report revealing this plot appeared in garbled form in the New York Times of December 5. But the arrival here of the Catalan workers' newspapers in-form us that the plot was uncovered during the last week of November. The arrests of the Commissioner of Public Order, Robertes, the General Secretary of the Estat Catala, and other leading members of both the liberal-bourgeois parties, Estat Catala and Esquerra, was forced by the anarcho-syndicalist CNT. Even then the Esquerra leaders, President Companys and Premier Tarradellas, attempted to conceal all the facts and to belittle their significance.

No wonder, since the most they could do for their closest colleague, Juan Casanovas, President of the Catalan Parliament, was to say that he had "toyed with the plot" but finally rejected it.

The plot involved assassinating the workers' leaders, seizing Catalonia and establishing it as a bourgeois regime independent of the rest of Spain. Thus the plan discussed in Paris, to save "democratic" face in Catalonia and save Italo-German prestige by leaving Franco's regime standing, would have been facilitated.

Anarchists Denounce Bourgeoisie

"Solidaridad Obrera," organ of the anarcho-syndicalist federation, CNT, the chief force in the Catalan proletariat, bluntly refused to pass over the plot as the work of isolated individuals, and insisted it was a class phenomenon:

"What has happened we have expected for some time. Events have not caught us by surprise. Because of this it has been easy for us to discover the conspirators and smash the plot. Reaction, which could never conquer Spain by arms, attempted through this plot to destroy Spain's revolutionary unity. Its program was to separate Catalonia from the Iberian revolution in order the better to conquer it, isolating and breaking up the firm front of the workers which each day grows stronger." (Nov. 28.)

"What bourgeois indiscipline is capable of, we have been able to

appreciate in these last hours. The gentry of bourgeois mentality, cloaked as militiamen of the Revolution, have attempted to create in Catalonia a republic of medieval type. . . . The excitement produced everywhere by our editorial of yesterday in which we exposed the thwarted plot gives us assurance that we interpret the thought of the Catalan people, which in these moments has been transformed into the lighthouse and guide of the Iberian peoples and of the world proletarian revolution." (Nov. 28.)

Why the POUM Is Attacked

The Stalinists have carried on a daily campaign of calumny against the POUM. Armed Stalinists attacked and wrecked the POUM youth headquarters in Madrid last month, and the Stalinist press a few weeks ago demanded the suppression of the POUM press. It hates the POUM because that Marxist party, despite its entrance into the Generalidad government on September 25th, has insisted that the fight against fascism must be fought with revolutionary weapons; land to the peasants, workers' control of production, a single command of the militia in the control of the proletarian organization, etc., whereas the Stalinists agree with the bourgeoisie in refusing to go beyond the limits of democratic capitalism.

The POUM also unsparingly criticized the Stalin government for entering the non-intervention committee and failing to send effective material aid to Spain until recently, and pointing out that this flowed from the narrow nationalistic policy, elevated by Stalin into a theory, "Socialism in one country." For these reasons, the POUM has been denounced by the Stalinists as "Trotskyist-Fascist." POUM has pointed to Leon Trotsky's sharp criticism of it, but to no avail, for any Marxist party or group which shares with Trotsky a critical attitude toward Stalinism is labelled "Trotskyist" by the Kremlin strategists.

A New Stalinist Pretext

On November 27 the POUM organ, "La Batalla," carried an editorial describing how, when the Madrid government moved to Valencia, a Madrid Defense Council was set up including representatives of all parties and groups, even the small Syndicalist Party of

Pestana—but not including the POUM. "La Batalla" was able to demonstrate that the CNT, Socialists, etc. all favored POUM representation in the Council. However, then, was it possible for Stalinist opposition alone to prevent the POUM, despite its five dailies, its mass membership, its militia columns on all fronts, from securing representation? Because, said the POUM, "it is the Soviet Embassy that, with the Soviet Consulate of Barcelona, inspires the campaign of insults and calumnies which is being made against our party." "It is intolerable that, on account of the aid they furnish us, they should attempt to impose upon us definite political norms, definite vetoes, to intervene and even to direct our policies."

Not to speak of incidents of which the POUM was aware through its minister in the Generalidad, there have been a whole series of public incidents, speeches laying down a line of bourgeois democracy by both Ambassador Rosenberg and Consul-General Ovsenko—who ended his speech on the Russian Revolution anniversary with "Long live the Catalan people, and its hero, President Companys!"—and a peremptory tone of authority in the Stalinist press since Russian aid began. This is the background which called forth the editorial in "La Batalla."

Ovsenko Denounces the POUM

Anyone who had any doubts about the readiness of the Soviet officials to seek suppression of the POUM had his doubts removed by the note which Consul-General Ovsenko issued to the press, denouncing the POUM as carrying out "fascist maneuvers," being an "enemy of the Soviet Union," etc., etc. in familiar Stalinist style but unprecedented from the pen of a resident Soviet diplomatic officer.

Ovsenko's note was a godsend to the liberal-bourgeois press, which devoted columns of commentary to it, and long attacks on the POUM, thus creating a diversion from the embarrassing problem of the Separatist plot which had been exposed by the CNT. "La Humanitat," liberal-bourgeois or, brazenly published a commentary on the note, with the title, "Against All Maneuvers of Fascism."

CNT Spoils the Game

This hue and cry against the POUM was exposed in blunt terms by the CNT. "Solidaridad Obrera" addressed itself to "La Humanitat" and its headlines: "We believe it our duty to call to the attention of that petty-bourgeois paper that we

are alert, for we know that the role of fascism is to hold back the revolution in order to give space and time for the bourgeoisie to rehabilitate itself and to give a blow from behind to the conquests of the revolutionary proletariat, the fascists hiding behind democratic banners.

"We all remember when 'La Humanitat' despaired of democracy and desired a strong regime to put an end to the 'anarchy' produced by never-ending discontent" of the revolutionary workers. Now they will see the we are taking care against the maneuvers of fascism. Not by changing their language because of the present circumstances, can they deceive us by their present 'revolutionism.' Take care, therefore!

These stern words punctured this move. But it has now led to something far more serious. For it appears to have convinced the liberal bourgeoisie, desperately in need of covering up the thwarted plot, that they cannot hope to fool the CNT any longer. And a controversy between the CNT and the Soviet Consul-General gave the bourgeoisie its opportunity.

COUNTER ATTACK

The CNT and the POUM on December 7 demanded that the Generalidad offer democratic asylum to Leon Trotsky. Before the Generalidad could answer, the Soviet Consul-General declared to the press (reported here in "La Prensa") that if Trotsky were admitted to Catalonia, the Soviet government would cut off its aid. Whereupon the CNT and POUM served a demand upon Ovsenko, for transmission to Stalin, for the release of all revolutionists imprisoned in Russian concentration camps.

The answer now appears in the capitalist press: Premier Tarradellas—who on September 27th fawned upon the powerful CNT, admitted it was the real power of Catalonia, and begged only for liberal-bourgeois minority representation in a re-organized government which was set up—"announced the break-up of his government because of its inability to control anarchist and labor syndicate groups." (N. Y. Times, December 13.)

In other words, the bourgeoisie is trying to drive the chief force of Catalonia out of the government. How is this possible? Despite some gains, the bourgeoisie has scarcely regained the power it had before the civil war; it could scarcely make this move on the basis of its own strength. There is only one explanation: behind the bourgeoisie stand the Stalinists and the Soviet officials.

SOCIALIST CALENDAR

SAN FRANCISCO:

Socialist Party Local: December 23, Wednesday, at 8 p. m., at 1057 Steiner Street, educational meeting. There will be a discussion of the Farmer-Labor Party question, led by Joseph Bowen.

Socialist Study Classes: Every Monday, 6:45 p. m.—Socialist Fundamentals.

Every Monday, 8:30 p. m.—History of Socialist Thought (Class now studying the Russian Revolution.)

Every Thursday, 8:00 p. m.—Trade Union History and Tactics. Discussion led by Barney Mayes.

BERKELEY: Socialist Party Local: Meets every Thursday at 8 p. m., 2533 Telegraph Avenue.

PALO ALTO:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every second Wednesday of the month at 915 Channing Avenue, at 8 p. m.

STOCKTON: Socialist Party Local: Meets every Monday at 8 p. m., at 234 N. Sutter Street. First and Third Monday regular business meetings.

Second and Fourth, open educational meetings.

OXNARD: Socialist Party Local: Meets every Monday at 8 p. m. First and third meetings, regular business meetings; second and fourth meetings, social and educational.

LOS ANGELES: Socialist Party Local: Meets every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 116½ West Ninth Street.

Socialist Party Jewish Branch: Meets every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 126 North Saint Louis Street.

Sunday Evening Forum: Every Sunday, 8 p. m., at 116½ West Ninth Street.

NOTE LOCALS: Send in corrections for the Calendar and any weekly changes or additions. Copy must be in the State Office Saturday.

Sawmill Strike Postponed

LOS ANGELES.—Postponement of the proposed strike by the Sawmill and Timber Workers' Union of Los Angeles until after settlement of the current maritime strike was announced last Friday night by officials of the union.

The union is seeking the same wage scale that now prevails in the harbor district.

The Party At Work

S. F. New Years Eve

San Francisco Local is planning a New Year's Eve costume party to be held at their new headquarters at 236 Van Ness Ave. The party will be a combination house-warming, since it is to be the first affair in the new general headquarters, and celebration of the end of 1936. Everyone is asked to come in costume and masked. Plans are being made to make the evening a real frolic. Music for dancing and a variety of entertainment will be furnished. Watch Labor Action for further details.

New State Office Budget

The United Socialist Drive is over. California went over the top \$17.34 on its quota of \$2,000, to the National Office. For a while, now, efforts will be concentrated on building up the income of the State Office which has suffered from both the Labor Action fund campaign and additional expenses which have been occurring recently because of increased activity of the party throughout the state.

The State Office monthly budget has been shaved to the bone and quotas assigned to locals on the basis—insofar as possible—of their ability to fulfill those quotas. Please notify the State Office at once if your local finds some adjustment necessary, and if you can increase the quota, please do so, since the minimum budget does not allow for much expansion. Unless the State Office hears differently by December 23, the quotas will stand as they are.

Quotas for San Francisco and L. A. Branch Central will be \$25 per month. For Stockton, Bakersfield, Palo Alto, Capay Valley, Berkeley, and the L. A. Jewish Branch the quotas will be \$10 per month; Fresno, Oxnard, Berkeley, Finnish, San Diego and Harbor City have been assigned quotas of \$5.00 per month, and \$25 is the quota for the membership-at-large. These are small amounts, and they will be much easier to fulfill.

Western States Federation Of the Socialist Party

Red Special Heads For Southwest

After negotiations with various states, and conferences with the weather man, the first three weeks of the Red Special tour have been planned. Starting with a meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on Sunday, December 13, the Red Special sound truck, conducted by Comrade Douglas Anderson and his wife, headed south and west to Joplin. A few days of organization will be carried on in the Joplin area, and the truck will continue on into Oklahoma after December 17.

Until December 21 the truck will operate in the area near Tulsa and will then go down into Dallas, Texas for a week's work in northern Texas.

Because of weather conditions, it will be impossible to use the truck in Kansas at the beginning of the tour, but plans will be made to cover the Kansas area when winter breaks up. The plan at present is to use the truck through the southwest and up the west coast until the weather makes possible organization work through the northwest, Rocky

fill if they are taken care of each month. Don't let them pile up. Please try to get them into the State Office not later than the fifteenth of every month.

The new budget quotas start from December, and Palo Alto has been credited with its December quota of \$10, which has already come into the State Office.

Don't Neglect the Dues Drive

Most locals have been very lax about dues stamp orders, and members have been allowed to grow careless about dues payments. Members must be in good standing to vote on the referendum which closes at the end of December, and two conventions are due in February and March. Local representation at the state convention and state representation on the national convention depend on dues stamp average for the year ending with this month. It is still not too late to get your orders in, but there is very little time left. Send in your dues stamp orders AT ONCE.

Exempt stamps are not being ordered in proportion to the unemployed membership reported to the State Office. Check up on this. Red cards must show exempt stamps within three months of the voting time on referenda.

Keep Posted On YPSL Affairs

The YPSL State Office issues a monthly bulletin and discussion organ, called *The Beacon*. Copies sell for 5c each and are available either from your local YPSL secretary or from the YPSL State Office at Room 334, 628 Montgomery Street. This bulletin carries on a monthly discussion, not only of YPSL activities and policy, but also of Party YPSL relations. Party members should not fail to read *The Beacon*.

An organization conference of YPSL representatives all over the country is being held in Chicago at the end of December. California is sending representatives, and the YPSL organization needs financial aid to send these delegates. Please co-operate in any way possible to assist in this important project.

A PICTURE OF REVOLUTIONARY BARCELONA

Wherever Workers Go They Never Forget To Take Their Guns Along

By ERNEST ERBER

The last few hours of the automobile trip from Paris to the Spanish border grew intolerably long. The three Spanish comrades were anxious to get back into action. The German nurse was anxiously looking forward to getting into the midst of the work for which her training was so sorely needed at the front lines. This activity would be a welcome change in the life of an emigre in Paris. I grew impatient with the winding and circling of the road as it wove its way through the passes of the Pyrenees whose towering peaks cut off my view of the Spanish plains down below.

The marvelous scenic beauty of the Pyrenees held no interest for us just now. Our minds were on the revolutionary scenery we would find on the other side of the mountains. I was particularly excited by the prospect of "rubbing shoulders" with a revolution in the making. For one who has been extremely conscious of the weakness of the American movement, revolutionary Spain would be a justification for many years spent in a movement that was no more than a lonely voice in the wilderness.

Atmosphere of Revolution

The moment we crossed the border we were aware of the tremendous change. The atmosphere was literally charged with revolution. The streets were filled with people seeking the latest news from the front, discussing political questions, and suspiciously eyeing automobiles that crossed the frontier from France. The workers seemed to be armed without a solitary exception. Four large trucks were being loaded with provisions for the front. An organ grinder stood in front of the largest inn grinding out the "Internationale" and the customs clerk hummed the tune as he examined our baggage. The black and red flags of the anarchists and the red flags of the socialists and communists were visible everywhere, so numerous in fact that the Spanish and Catalan flags on the government buildings were hardly noticed except that they

yellow presented a contrast to the proletarian red and black.

As we left the town a final touch was added to my first picture of revolutionary Spain. A large stone church stood near the road near the outskirts of town. The black smudge of smoke running up the white stone walls over the windows and doors marked it as one of the churches gutted by the fires lit by the enraged masses who looked upon the church as the outstanding symbol of reaction and oppression. A stone mason was at work sealing up the front entrance with brick and mortar. The Spanish masses are determined that these structures should never again serve their age-old purpose. The mason straightened up as he glimpsed the flag of the CNT on our car as we came up the road. He raised his clenched fist in salute as we passed. Then he returned to his work; no doubt his only work on a church that he was willing to call a labor of love.

Workers' Barcelona

It was already dark as we approached Barcelona. The myriad lights of the city indicated how far it extended down the shore and how much of it sprawled out over the hills that rose to graduated heights toward the inland. I was thrilled with a sense of the workers power as I recalled the story the Spanish comrades had told me about how the workers had poured into the streets virtually unarmed to crush the attempted putsch and establish their authority in this most modern, industrial center in Spain.

Barcelona was a duplication of the revolutionary atmosphere of the border towns on a scale many

times magnified. The trolley-cars had been "syndicalized" by the CNT and painted with the red and black of the anarchists and the letters of the organization. Though I daily saw hundreds of these trolleys they never failed to send a thrill of joy through my veins. They seemed to be ever present reminders of the heroic actions of the workers, many of them the motormen and conductors now aboard them, in the streets on which they ran.

The CNT had taken over the best office building in Barcelona. It was a modern office building erected by the Chamber of Commerce several years ago. The square before the building was filled with crowds of workers listening to the amplifiers that broadcast the speeches being given over the radio station inside. I was later to see these crowds come here night after night to applaud favorable news from the front and cheer the statements of the orators.

Red Broadcasts

I had a very interesting revelation when I later visited the broadcasting studios. None of the speakers I heard spoke from notes, let alone give written speeches. A "microphone voice" is absolutely foreign to them. They received their training on soapboxes and in union halls and the radio is merely a modern method of reaching more people with the same speeches. Every once in a while they forget the existence of the "micro" and begin to pace up and down and wave their arms in gestures to the unseen audience with which they had once driven home their points to a visible audience.

The anarchists had cleaned the entire building of all religious and other symbols of the old order. Yet their respect for art had prevented them from removing the portraits of the large-waisted, bearded merchants and industrialists who had founded the Chamber of Commerce. One of the most incongruous sights of the revolution was to see an anarchist work-

er in overalls at work behind a sumptuous, glass-topped desk, beneath the portrait of some merchant prince or textile mogul.

The revolution has engendered a certain gaiety that is immediately apparent when one mixes with the crowd streaming down the boulevards. It is not the carefree gaiety of the Paris Commune; the gaiety that produced street festivals while the Versailles troops attacked the gates of the city. It is the gaiety of millions who have quit cringing beneath the whip of exploitation and now stand erect as men.

The Worker and His Gun

In this respect let me also refer to the remarkable transformation that overcomes the workingclass when it is armed. The gun at the workers' side means everything to him. He may not be able to state the Marxist theory of the state, but he knows that the police power of the bourgeois state has vanished when the workingclass has armed itself. If he can also arm himself with the political understanding necessary to prevent the bourgeois politicians from luring him back to his old slavery, the existence of a workers and peasants Spain is assured.

This natural appreciation of their arms was strengthened by the constant agitation of the POUM (Workers' Party of Marxist Unity) to put the workingclass on guard against attempts to disarm it. The POUM slogan that made the greatest impression was: "Those who would take your arms today will take your bread tomorrow." Nor was it unnecessary to warn the workingclass. Utilizing the shortage of heavy arms at the front (there never was a shortage of small arms), the liberal politicians raised the slogan of "All arms at the front." What they left unsaid was, "And disarm the workingclass in the rear."

Grim Struggle

The workers never permit their arms to leave their sight. Whether in the movie, in the cafe, on the trolley, or lounging on the beach

with their family on Sunday afternoon, their gun is always beside them.

But the grimness of the struggle is always present, despite the gaiety. Black arm bands indicating the death of a relative or a loved one are very numerous. The ornate, horse-drawn hearsees constantly seen on the streets tell their own graphic story of the sacrifices the Spanish workingclass is making to win its freedom.

And death strikes swiftly. As the young medical student who drove the car down from Paris left me off at one of the workers' controlled hotels, he gave me his address and urgently requested that I visit him when I got to Madrid. Two days later I heard that he never reached Madrid. He fell in the storming of the Alcazar at Toledo.

Death of Comrades

The German nurse, a member of the Socialist Youth and interpreter at the Socialist caucus at the World Youth Congress at Geneva, was also destined never to re-cross the Pyrenees. She went to the Zaragoza front with a medical unit attached to the famous Durruti column. The unit set up a first aid station in a town just taken in an advance. The Moors suddenly launched a counter attack and the militia was forced to retreat, leaving the nurses and wounded behind. They attempted to barricade themselves in the building they used as an improvised hospital, but unsuccessfully. Not a life was spared.

The story of the medical student, Juan Ibane, and the German nurse, Augusta Marx, are the daily story in Spain. I hesitate to laud their heroism. Anything I could say would be merely the repetition of trite and hackneyed phrases. If I learned to know them at all, I am sure they would be the first to protest. To them it was not a question of heroism. It was merely a different phase of a struggle to which they had devoted their lives. Now they gave them for that struggle.

Socialist Youth

The District Executive Committee of the Young People's Socialist League of California took time off from deliberations at their meeting in Los Angeles last week-end to join the picket line of the sewing project workers at WPA headquarters. Many of the members picketed all night. This is an indication of the turn of the Socialist movement to mass work.

The District Committee discussed the coming convention of the American Student Union, the April 22nd Student strike against war, the Chicago organizational conference being held by the national office of the YPSL over the Christmas holidays, and the publication of the *Beacon*, official organ of the YPSL of California as a broader publication for more popular consumption. Also discussed at great length was the organization of the drive for the "California Youth Act."

MILITANT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

The committee in a resolution that was unanimously passed requested the National Executive Committee of the YPSL to take a position for a more militant policy for the American Student Union. This policy, which includes the conduct of the Student Strike Against War in April, includes a demand for a clear-cut program

for the ASU on the campus and for a more positive struggle against war and the war-making imperialist government.

A call for the use of such slogans as "Strike against imperialist war," and "Only Socialism can end war" to rally the students to the support of the Student Strike next April was issued. It was pointed out that in raising these slogans, young workers and students must be educated to learn the role of the war-making imperialists who control the government of the "liberal" Roosevelt.

ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO

The announcement of the National office of the YPSL that an organization conference for active members and officers was to be held this month in Chicago was received with great enthusiasm by the assembled members of the District Committee, and Comrades Paula Aragon, Bill Monroe, Murry Weiss and Howard Rosen, District Executive Secretary, were chosen to make the trip to Chicago.

The agenda of the conference includes discussion of the ASU, the American Youth Congress, mass work in trade unions, and inner-organizational problems of Young People's Socialist League.

LABOR ACTION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CALIFORNIA
Published Weekly by
Labor Action Publishing Association
628 Montgomery St., Room 334,
San Francisco, Calif.

JAMES P. CANNON.....Editor
GLEN TRIMBLE.....Associate Editor
FRANK STERN.....Business Manager

Subscription Rates: \$1.50 per year; Bundle Rates:
Up to 100, 3c per copy; over 100, 2½c per copy.

Signed contributions do not necessarily represent the policy of the editorial board. In the line of party democracy and free speech timely articles by socialists expressing differing viewpoints may be published on the responsibility of the authors.

VOL. 1, NO. 4 SATURDAY, DEC. 19, 1936

"A Dollar Quota"

Last week we commented editorially on the statement of a Los Angeles County Relief administrator who said "There is absolutely no way the women can be put back to work under the quota." We stated then that this was far more than a local judgment, that it was the ultimatum of the Democratic Administration to America's twelve million unemployed.

This week our forecast is born out by the direct statement of the highest WPA official in Washington, acting Administrator Aubrey Williams.

Drastic curtailments of white-collar projects have not been confined to Los Angeles and San Francisco. By official announcement 175,000 men and women are to be dropped from national relief rolls by December 15th.

Protest has swept the country. Sit-down strikes have resulted in almost every major city and many of them have been answered by the same kind of violence and police brutality which is the stock-in-trade of private employers. Scenes in New York, New Jersey and Los Angeles have been close copies of the Hoover regime's treatment of the Bonus Army.

Consequently a delegation from the militant national union of the unemployed and WPA workers, the Workers Alliance, waited on Mr. Williams in Washington. Mr. Williams tried "soft soap." It didn't work, so Mr. Williams got mad and walked out. At the door he said what he really thought:

"It boils down to this: These State Administrators have been told to get down to a DOLLAR QUOTA and they must do it."

There you have it from the highest official source. Human needs are sentimental nonsense. Henceforth the Roosevelt Administration will rule as has every previous Democratic and Republican administration. Capitalism is in the saddle.

What it really boils down to is that workers have only one choice — DOLLAR QUOTAS OR WORKER'S RULE.

The Socialist Vote

One hundred and ninety-three thousand, six hundred and thirty-eight Americans voted the Socialist ticket in 1936. Eleven thousand three hundred and twenty-five Californians checked the names of Norman Thomas and George Nelson.

These final returns, official except for Rhode Island on the national total, prove more encouraging than was the inadequate news of the first few days after the election. As usual the Socialist vote, where it was counted at all, was counted last. Many states, most of them controlled by the "Party of Democracy" denied the elementary right to vote to Socialists.

In spite of all this more than 190,000 voters chose the Socialist standard bearers. This in a campaign which saw thousands of prominent liberals, labor leaders and radicals insisting that there was suddenly and miraculously a difference between the two parties of capitalism; that pro-Landon Dupont, who belonged to the Liberty League, meant Fascism, while pro-Roosevelt A. P. Giannini, who owns California through the Bank of America, meant "Peace, Freedom, Progress, and Prosperity."

This astonishing united front succeeded in creating an atmosphere of crisis. True the "crisis" was a purely artificial one

generated out of the shallow opportunism of American labor politics and the weird twists of Soviet diplomacy. American Labor Leaders are old hands at choosing lesser evils but the Soviet bureaucrats are doing pretty well for beginners. "Revolutionary" imagination that can picture Roosevelt as a shiny-armored defender of the Soviet Union deserves wonder, though hardly admiration.

In the midst of "crisis" nearly two hundred thousand Socialists stood firm. Small tests prepare the ranks for greater tasks. The Socialist vote of 1936 is therefore much more significant and worthwhile than was the larger, but far less clear, vote of 1932.

Asylum for Trotsky

The reported action of the Mexican government in granting asylum to Trotsky marks another stage in the unceasing struggle of the "man without a country" to find a spot on the planet where he can live and remain what he has always been—a true revolutionist whose life is devoted wholly to the emancipation struggle of the workers.

The fight to secure asylum for Lenin's comrade-in-arms has become a world issue. All the forces of world reaction are combined against him. The countries of "democratic" capitalism have no place for him, and international fascism combines with international Stalinism in an unholy united front to deprive him of any residence, and even of life itself.

In the face of this international manhunt every sincere socialist is justly proud of the fact that several leaders of the party have taken a prominent part in the struggle to secure the right of asylum for the great revolutionist. The "Committee for the Defense of Trotsky," which is composed of a large group of the most distinguished figures in America, has undoubtedly had an influence in the new and favorable developments.

Trotsky's only crime is loyalty to the working class. That, and that alone, is the reason for the world campaign against him. That is why he was deported from the Soviet Union by the Stalinist betrayers. That is why he was expelled from France, denied admittance to any of the big capitalist countries and is now driven from Norway on the joint demand of the Soviet bureaucracy and the Norwegian fascists.

An Associated Press dispatch says Mexico's offer of refuge to Trotsky "caused a great surprise" in Moscow. But that is only true of official Moscow. Trotsky still lives in the hearts of the Moscow workers, and all the terror of Stalin cannot expel him from that residence. Trotsky lives in the hearts of revolutionary workers the world over. For them, from Moscow to San Francisco, from Barcelona to Mexico, the news that Trotsky has once again evaded the blood hounds and found a place to live can cause only exultant joy.

A Standard Frame-up

Seven workers were jailed in 1935 as "dynamiters." These men had been active in the bitter maritime "tanker" strike against the united power of the major California oil companies.

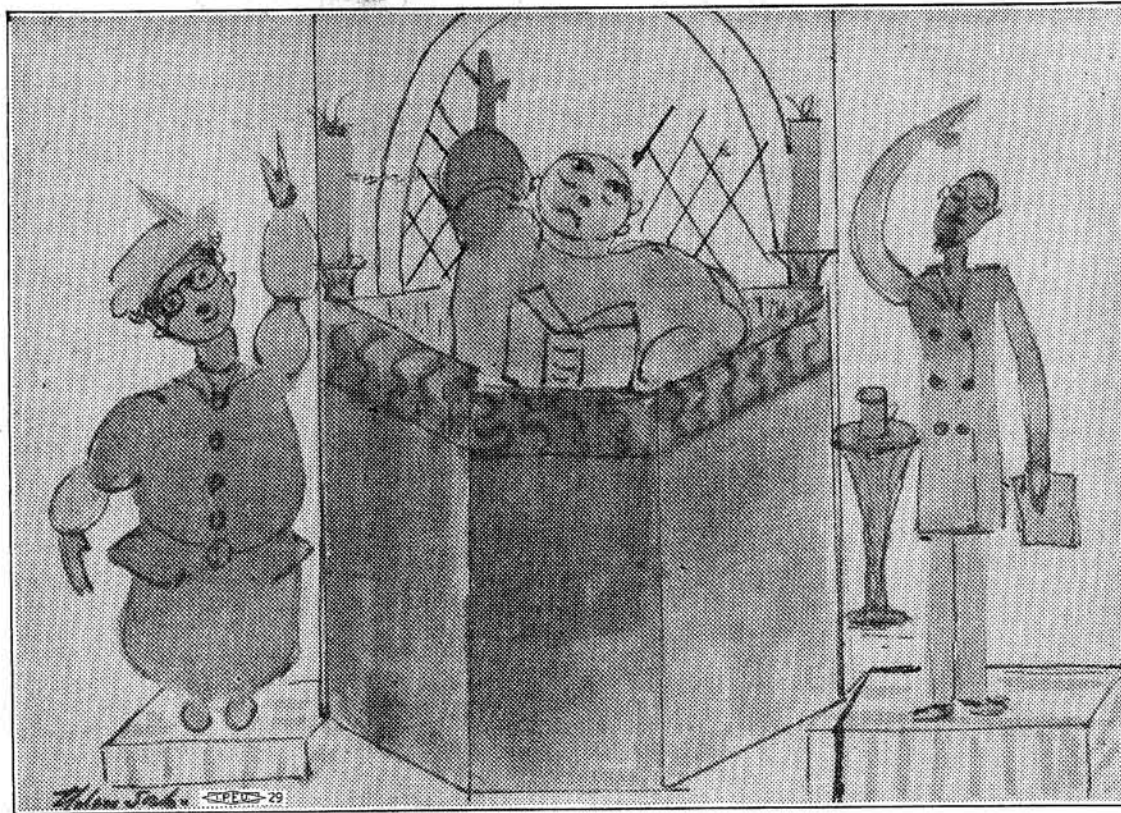
The men were railroaded to prison. The strike was crushed. That is the "California way" of dealing with labor troubles. Now, nearly two years later, the whole trial has been exposed as a ghastly frame-up. The State's star witness in affidavits backed by eighteen dictaphone records has cleared the defendants of guilt and placed the State of California on trial.

Scudder has sworn that the Standard Oil Company, District Attorney Cleary and Captain Healy of the San Francisco police combined to break a strike by framing innocent men.

The standards of California "justice" and of the Standard Oil Company are one and the same.

The authors of the Colorado massacre and the crime against Mooney unite forces in the Modesto case.

PUBLIC UTILITIES



"We Must Say
Firmly 'We
WILL HAVE NO
MORE WARS'"

"It is our moral obligation
to promote international
good-will."

"We must war
against war, co-
operate with the
League of
Nations"

N.Y. Socialists
Open Rolling
Strike Kitchen

NEW YORK.—For the past weeks a "rolling strike kitchen" has been supplying food and coffee to the striking maritime workers of New York City who keep a "midnight patrol" on the picket line. Manned and serviced by members of the Young People's Socialist League and the Socialist Party, the kitchen has been of great aid in bolstering the morale of the striking seamen. Nightly, the kitchen patrols the wind-swept waterfront from the early evening until the small hours of the morning. Its crew of "Yipsels" work voluntarily, at the cost of hours of sleep, and the food served is donated by Socialists and sympathizers.

The idea of the "rolling kitchen" was conceived and initiated by the Industrial Department of the Young People's Socialist League, headed by Milt Cohen, its chairman, and are bearing the brunt of the burden imposed by the work.

The advent of the rolling kitchen was hailed as an example of the wholehearted support which the seamen must receive, in a statement issued yesterday by Murray Baron, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the Socialist Party of New York City. The statement pointed out that the kitchen was created pursuant to the recent resolution of support for the striking seamen adopted last week by the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party. He declared that money and food were urgently needed to utilize the kitchen most effectively, and urged all sympathizers to send contributions of both to the Socialist Party at 21 East 17th St., or notify the office of available donations, which will be picked up anywhere in the city.

Furniture Workers Picket

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5.—Furniture workers staged two mass picketing demonstrations this week in front of the Kroehler Manufacturing Company plant in Inglewood, where a strike has been in progress for several weeks.

Damage of several hundred dollars to company property was claimed by Manager W. J. Hubert after the first mass demonstration by approximately 200 pickets. No damage was reported as a result of the second demonstration by 300 pickets, although four workers were arrested by Inglewood police called to disperse the picket line.

The strike in the Kroehler plant, according to the Furniture Workers' Union, is part of a national strike called in all the company's plants for higher wages, better working conditions and union recognition.

Oakland Furriers Win Strike

OAKLAND.—Striking members of the International Fur Workers' Union, Local 79, won union recognition, the thirty-five hour week and wage increases in an agreement signed with the Retail Fur Merchants' Association here.

The victory is only one of many in the wave of union successes throughout the San Francisco Bay area.

Reactionary Editor Ducked

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—C. Leon DeAryan, editor and publisher of a reactionary local weekly which has bitterly attacked the maritime strike, was ducked in the bay. Although one longshoreman, Floyd Mallory, is being held, police are actually unable to locate the public-spirited citizens who gave DeAryan the best bath he has had in a long time.

L. A. Teamsters Gain

LOS ANGELES.—A resume of the current Teamsters' Union organization drive revealed this week that:

1. A check-up on the ridge route and other highways used by long-haul drivers showed 95 per cent of them union members.

2. Milk drivers and bakery drivers are rapidly being brought into the union.

3. Nine hundred new members signed up during month of November.

Relief Refused In B. C.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—When relief was refused single transients, unemployed youths marched to the business section here and solicited funds from the street corners.

Within a week 28 men had been arrested and held for trial. The parades and the solicitation were carried out in an organized manner, under the direction of the Single Unemployed Protective Association.

Next Saturday, December 19, at the Innes Gardens, 1244 Innes Street, Los Angeles, the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, Los Angeles Branch of the Workers' Defense League, will hold a dance for the benefit of the Velarde-Espinoza case. Hundreds of friends of the agricultural workers are expected to dance to the scintillating rhythm of a union orchestra.

The Young People's Socialist League from all points south of Santa Barbara will attend in a body. Part of the proceeds will be allocated to the General Defense Christmas Fund for class war prisoners.

VAGRANCY

In addition to the dance the Los Angeles defense front is quite busy. The Velarde-Espinoza case is being prepared for appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. A pamphlet on the agricultural history and present situation in California is practically completed. Legal defense has been supplied to the Strike Committee in San Pedro and regular deliveries of food are being made to the Relief Kitchen of the Maritime Federation.

One of the most significant cases to be brought to the attention of the mass of organized labor is the Velarde-Espinoza case.

Driving Velarde's automobile on a public highway, several months ago, these men were arrested for vagrancy. They are both officials of the Agricultural Workers' Union. Both Velarde and Espinoza are native born Californians. Each defendant is out on \$500 bail. They are important men in the struggle of the agricultural workers and if forced to serve their sentence, the Union would be seriously handicapped.

PAMPHLET COMING

The pamphlet on the agricultural question in California promises to be the most excellent one written on this subject. Three or four attractive photographs will be included and the pamphlet is written in a terse, dramatic, reportorial style. It will be circulated nationally and will be an effective instrument to focus attention on the tireless efforts of the agricultural workers to build a strong Union.

Convention Of
Student Union
December 27

Liberal, progressive and radical students from all over the country will have their attention focused on the University of Chicago campus this Christmas vacation when the annual convention of the American Student Union takes place on December 27th through 30th. Features of the convention will be discussions of the organizational problems of the growing Student Union—in particular the national campaigns such as that for the American Youth Act, the fight against military training, and the annual Student Strike Against War.

Over 500 delegates are expected from ASU chapters, as well as fraternal delegates from co-operatives, church student groups, school publications, and student body councils. Convention sponsors on the Chicago University campus include Maynard Krueger, vice president of the A.F. of T., and member of the national executive committee of the Socialist Party.

SOCIALIST POSITION

Alvaine Hollister, member of the Student Union's national executive committee, and national student director of the Young People's Socialist League, in a statement on the convention said:

"As the world moves closer to the next war, there are many tendencies to fall back on such discredited agencies as the League of Nations, and to put faith in 'collaboration' or so-called peaceful nations. But we are proud of the student anti-war movement, led by the American Student Union, with its fine and vigorous spirit, and its understanding of the impotence of international machinery that puts faith in the 'peaceful' intentions of capitalist states, whether fascist or democratic. It is to the credit of our student movement that we are wise to that sort of muddled talking. We won't be fooled. We strike against war in April, and we repeat that we refuse to support any government that will lead us into war, or any war that our government may attempt to lead us into."

Yipsel S.E.C.
Invites Erber
To California

The State Executive Committee of the Young People's Socialist League of California meeting in full session at Los Angeles on December 5th and 6th sent greetings to Comrade Erber on his return from Spain. A request for Erber to spend a month in California has been forwarded to the National Executive Committee of the YPSL and is included with the following resolution:

"The State Executive Committee of the Young People's Socialist League of California sends its revolutionary greetings to Comrade Ernest Erber who has just returned from embattled Spain. Comrade Erber's trip to Spain symbolized the solidarity of the Young People's Socialist League with the workers and peasants of Spain. His return carries with it the fire and hope of the Spanish revolution."

"The YPSL of California invites comrade Erber to tour the West, and bring his fresh message to young workers here. His tour will be of the greatest significance, and we urge the National Executive Committee to allow a month to comrade Erber to be spent in California."

SIDELINES

By Jonathan Doe

Litvinoff Says a Mouthful

Litvinoff says that "only simpletons" would believe that the Soviet Union, by which, of course, he means the Stalin bureaucracy, wants a Communist regime in Spain. We agree 100 per cent with that all right, but can't help wondering if there may not be a few honest rank-and-file "simpletons" left in the Communist party who would not look upon a Communist or Socialist Spain as the worst disaster since the Johnstown flood, the San Francisco earthquake, or the sinking of the Titanic.

Since the communo-democratic peoples' Front cannot raise such slogans as "All Power to the Workers," "Land to Those Who Till It," etc., we wish to suggest a substitute. "Capitalist democracy, too, will keep the trains running on time." That should take the wind out of the sails of the Mussolinis and Hitlers.

Hi Buddy!

Advertisement of the shipowners in San Francisco newspapers: "Come on boys, let's settle this thing. Let's negotiate—and arbitrate. That's the good, clean American way . . . Let's have a Merry Christmas."

We used to work in an advertising agency ourselves and can write circles around that. Watch us!

Come on pal, ol' pal, ol' pal ol' mine! Atta boy, ol' boy, ol' boy. Set 'em up, Joe. Naw, this 'uns on me. Now of palsy-walsy, ain't I your friend? Bes fren a workin' man ever had. Why, Joe, ain't I high fren? Shure, shet 'em up agin Joe. Shipowners are a man's bes fren. Fren o' the people, Joe. Fren o' the public. Santa Claus. Thaz what we are, Joe, Shanty Claus. Good, clean Merry Christmas, upstandish, Wally Ho!

This is the first and last time this column is going to take up the subject of Wally Simpson. What with that gal plastered all over the front page of every paper and the news from Spain cut to a few lines and "featured" on Page 22 with the classified ads and vital statistics, we're sorely tempted to go out and get plastered ourselves. Before we do, however, we'll risk one comment.

Upton Sinclair, keynote speaker at the recent San Francisco Writers' Congress, hails Mrs. Simpson's and the King's "democratic attitude." Heres a couple of new recruits for the People's Front—Wally and just plain folksy David Windsor.

Northwest Labor Notes

The Federal Section of 544 with the support of the CLU scored a victory in its struggle for supplemental relief this week when the Minneapolis Board of Welfare voted to grant supplemental coal to relief clients and budget increases for single men from 40c to 60c per day, and a 10 per cent increase on the grocery budgets for direct relief clients. The Federal Section declares that while they are pleased at the result of their efforts to date, they maintain that relief budgets are still below a decent standard of living.

Farrell Dobbs, of General Drivers' Union, Local 544, will represent that organization in a newly-formed committee composed of the business agents of all Minneapolis and St. Paul trade unions. The purpose of the organization will be to make uniform Twin City wage scales and working conditions in the various industries of this area.

The setting up of this committee is definitely a progressive step and the move is hailed by the progressive forces in the local trade union movement, which had long felt the need for just such a coordinating force as the Twin City Joint Action Committee of Organized Labor promises to become.

Cleaners and Dyers Win

Local 133, the Cleaners and Laundry Workers' Union, has completed signing up all the laundry and cleaning plants in the city. Of 75 plants in the city, 30 are strictly closed shops. This latest agreement signed between the union and the bosses gives the union a splendid opportunity to consolidate its gains and go on to even greater gains for the workers. It provides a mark for every other laundry workers union to aim at.

Rates of pay fall under two classifications. For the dry cleaners the minimum wage is 33½c per hour with a sliding scale to 93½c per hour for a first class silk spotter. Hours are set at 40 per week with time and a half for overtime. Seniority rights are also included, of course. For laundry workers the minimum wage is 30c per hour with a sliding scale to 60c, with time and a half for overtime, and seniority rights included.

Convention of Unemployed

Over 200 delegates representing several thousand unemployed and WPA workers of Minnesota, will assemble in St. Paul December 12 and 13 in the State Office Building where will be held the first convention of the Minnesota locals of the Workers' Alliance of America. The purpose of the convention will be the consolidation of the WPA locals and unification with other unemployed and WPA workers' organizations which recently affiliated with the national Workers' Alliance. With all the independent locals affiliated with the Workers' Alliance of America, the unemployed movement of Minnesota will continue more effectively its struggle for a measure of security and a decent standard of living for the unemployed.

Among the delegations attending will be the Federal Workers' Section of the General Drivers' Union, Local 544, the largest unem-

ployed and WPA workers' organization in the state, concentrated in Industrial Hennepin County, the Citizens Protective Union of St. Paul, the Minnesota Workers' Alliance, the Minnesota Labor Alliance and the Anoka County Council of Labor.

Minneapolis
Store Drivers
Now In 544

MINNEAPOLIS.—For the first time in the history of the local labor movement the Minneapolis department store drivers are unionized. Events have proved that where the drivers are organized the other workers soon follow their example, consequently, we may confidently expect that the slogan of the militant Drivers Union, 544, "Make Minneapolis a Union Town" will be soon realized.

Powers Mercantile, Young Quilman, John W. Thomas Co., Donaldsons, The Leader, Inc., and the Dayton Co. are the parties to the contract with the union. The labor movement is especially gratified at having the last named company signed up. The Dayton Co. has long been a pillar of the Citizens Alliance, the local labor hating and labor fighting organization, Dayton's of late has given thousands of dollars to that organization, and backed it up by all other possible support.

LABOR HATERS BEATEN

This company so hated and feared labor unions that it paid their drivers more than the union scale, gave the men vacations with pay each year, furnished the men with a summer and winter uniform, lent them money at low rates of interest through the company credit union, and in general made the working conditions of this men saw in unionization their only means to conserve these conditions. Therefore they joined 544, which saw to it that the same conditions which prevailed are written into the contract.

250 workers are affected by the contract, which provides for a 50c minimum wage with a sliding scale up to 65c per hour for certain classifications of workers. Seniority rights are included, the 48 hour week and time and a half for overtime. Drivers, helpers, weighers, checkers, sorters, platform men, in fact nearly all work the ranks of Local 544.

Prefer War to Pagan Peace

Lady Astor, well-known pacifist of the ruling-class variety, forgot her love of peace long enough to declare she would take up arms in the defense of Christianity. She would prefer war "rather than see paganism or autocracy in Europe crush Christianity."

Lady Astor also stated, as she sailed for home on the Queen Mary, that she could get more real news by reading the Bible in place of the American press.

PEARLS FROM THE PRESS

Some further assumptions of the average American employer:

THAT it's a good thing to keep Tom Mooney in jail, because this sets an example that will deter other trade unionists from becoming too active and effective in behalf of the working class;

THAT the Supreme Court may be able to keep the lid on the country for some time, but it's still a pretty good idea to invest a portion of capital in foreign countries!

THAT the stories in the Saturday Evening Post and Cosmopolitan represent the peak of literary artistry;

THAT it's good sense for employers to flock to the support of a fellow-employer being fought by the union, but that when the workers institute sympathetic strikes in support of their brother, this is nothing less than Bolshevism;

THAT most other employers are terrible bores but, what the hell, you have to stick to your class;

THAT it's high time a stop was

made to free public education—there are too many educated people now for the jobs available; besides we can send our children to private schools;

THAT woman's place is in the home, and that it's exceedingly bad taste to get mixed up in the class struggle—on the side of the workers;

THAT the number of homeless children roaming the country is dreadful, but that to adequately handle the problem would threaten the very foundations of our government;

THAT the reason women turn to prostitution is not because they are underpaid or out of work, but because they are naturally evil;

THAT it is smart tactics to keep the black worker and the white worker prejudiced against one another, because otherwise they might get together and cause a lot of trouble;

THAT in the person of Calvin Coolidge could be recognized the

highest peak yet reached by human evolution;

THAT it isn't heroism or devotion to a cause, but Moscow gold that keeps a group of workmen out on strike for weeks at a stretch;

THAT a sales tax is eminently just, because don't the rich as well as the poor buy commodities;

THAT capitalism, far from being in its death throes, is still just a babe;

THAT football and baseball and scandal stories and such things are fine because they take the minds of the masses away from their misery;

THAT a paper edited by workers has a definite class bias, but that the great dailies edited and owned by the wealthy are impartial and American;

THAT another war might be a good thing because the ensuing carnage would solve the unemployment problem;