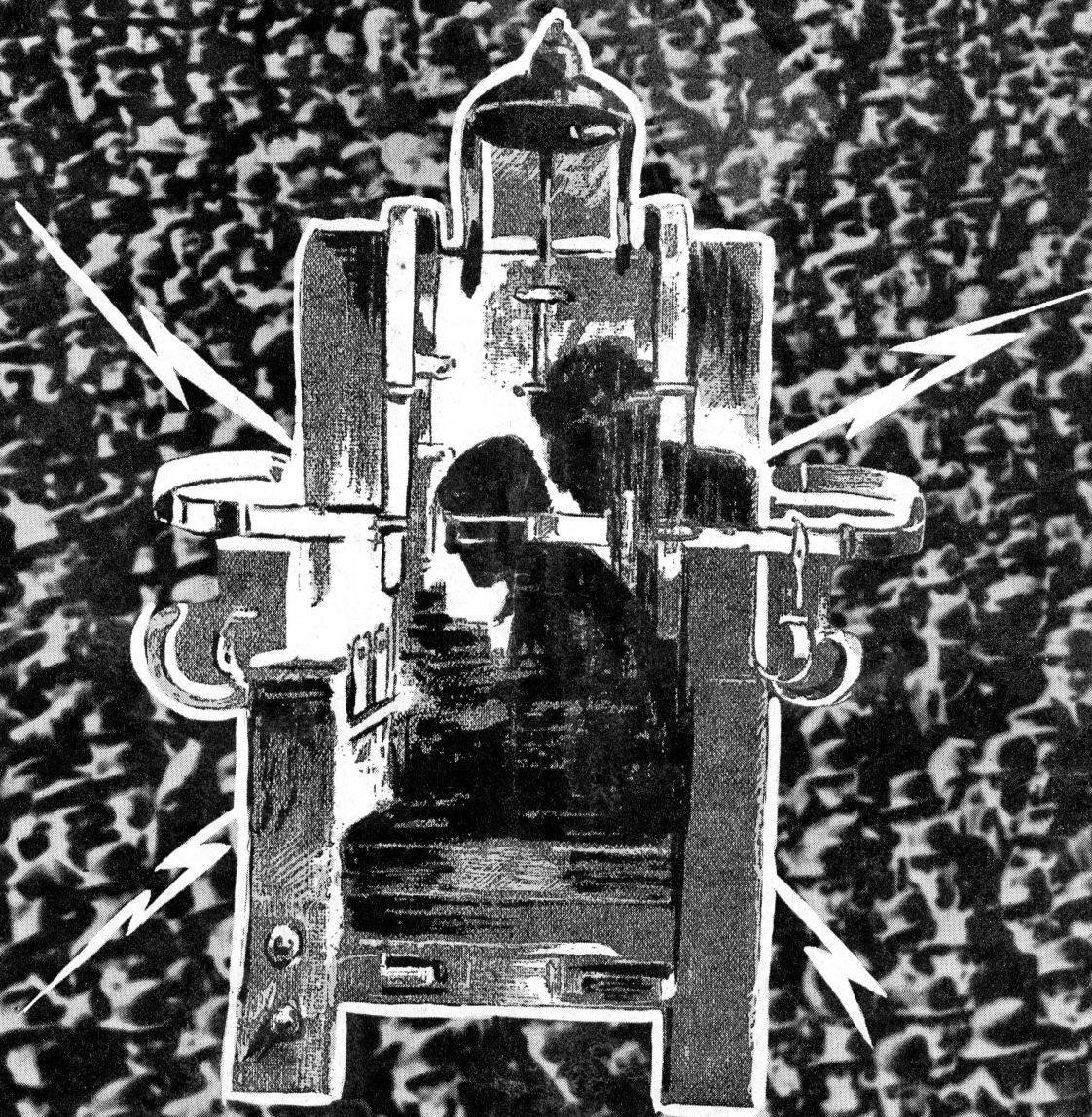


# LABOR DEFENDER

Vol. 1. No. 7

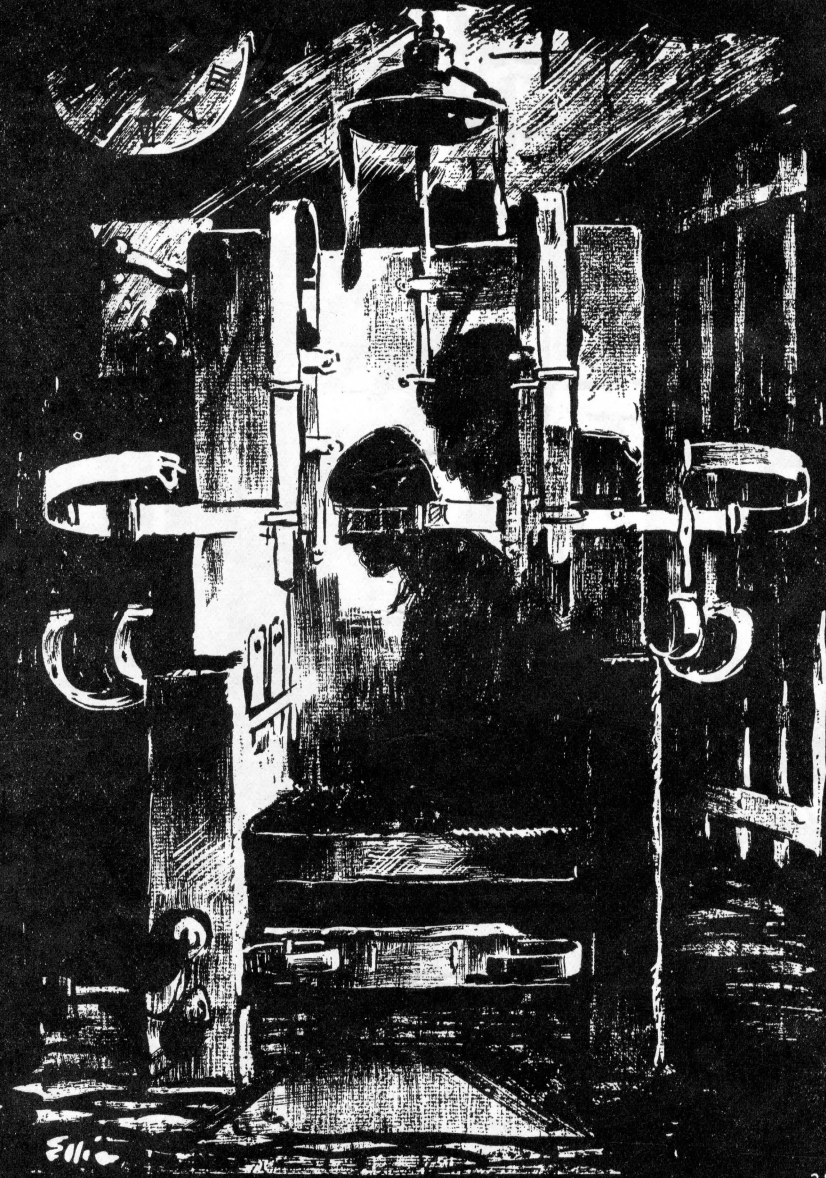
July 1926

Price 10 Cents



— save  
**Sacco and Vanzetti!**

# SACCO AND VANZETTI MUST NOT DIE!



391 

## INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

*This poster, 22x32, is distributed free through the national or local office of I. L. D.*



# Sacco and Vanzetti

An  
Appeal to American  
Labor

By Eugene V. Debs.

The supreme court of Massachusetts has spoken at last and Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco, two of the bravest and best scouts that ever served the labor movement, must go to the electric chair.

The decision of this capitalist judicial tribunal is not surprising. It accords perfectly with the tragical farce and the farcical tragedy of the entire trial of these two absolutely innocent and shamefully persecuted working men.

The evidence at the trial in which they were charged with a murder they had no more to do with committing than I had, would have convicted no one but a "foreign labor agitator" in the hydrophobic madness of the world war. In any other case the perjured and flagrantly made-to-order testimony, repeatedly exposed and well known to the court, would have resulted in instantaneous acquittal. Not even a sheep-killing dog but only a "vicious foreign-radical" could have been convicted under such shameless evidence.

Sacco and Vanzetti were framed and doomed from the start. Not all the testimony that could have been piled up to establish their innocence beyond a question of doubt could have saved them in that court. The trial judge was set and immovable. It was so ordained by the capitalist powers that be, and it had to come. And there must be no new trial granted lest the satanic perjury of the testimony and the utter rottenness of the proceedings appear too notoriously rank and revolting in spite of the conspiracy of the press to keep the public in ignorance of the disgraceful and damning facts.

Aside from the disgustingly farcical

nature of the trial which could and should have ended in fifteen minutes in that master-class court, the refined malice and barbaric cruelty of these capitalist tribunals, high and low, may be read in the insufferable torture inflicted through six long, agonizing years upon their imprisoned and helpless victims.

It would have been merciful to the last degree in comparison had they been boiled in oil, burned at the stake, or had every joint been torn from their bodies on the wheel when they were first seized as prey to glut the vengeance of slave drivers, who wax fat and savage in child labor and who never forgive an "agitator" who is too rigidly honest to be bribed, too courageous to be intimidated, and too defiant to be suppressed.

And that is precisely why the mill-owning, labor-sweating malefactors of Massachusetts had Sacco and Vanzetti framed, pounced upon, thrown into a dungeon, and sentenced to be murdered by their judicial and other official underlings.

*I appeal to the working men and women of America to think of these two loyal comrades, these two honest, clean-hearted brothers of ours, in this fateful hour in which they stand face to face with their bitter and ignominious doom.*

The capitalist courts of Massachusetts have had them on the rack day and night, devouring the flesh of their bodies and torturing their souls for six long years to finally deal the last vicious, heartless blow, aimed to send them to their graves as red-handed felons and murderers.

Would that it were in my power to make that trial judge and those cold-blooded gowns in the higher court suffer for just one day the agonizing torture, the pitiless misery, the relentless cruelty they have inflicted in their stony-hearted "judicial calmness and serenity" upon Sacco and Vanzetti through six endless years!

Perhaps some day these solemn and begowned servants of the ruling powers may have to atone for their revolting crime against innocence in the name of justice!

They have pronounced the doom of their long suffering victims and the press declares that the last word has been spoken. I deny it.

There is yet another voice yet to be heard and that is the voice of an outraged working class. It is for labor now to speak and for the labor movement to announce its decision, and that decision is and must be, SACCO AND VANZETTI ARE INNOCENT AND SHALL NOT DIE!

To allow these two intrepid proletarian leaders to perish as red-handed criminals would forever disgrace the cause of labor in the United States. The countless children of generations yet to come would blush for their sires and grandsires and never forgive their cowardice and poltroonery.

It cannot be possible, and I shall not think it possible, that the American workers will desert, betray and deliver to their executioner two men who have stood as stanchly true, as unflinchingly loyal in the cause of labor as have Sacco and Vanzetti, whose doom has been pronounced by the implacable enemies of the working class.



# Sacco and Vanzetti

An  
*Appeal to American  
Labor*

By Eugene V. Debs.

# Call for the Second Annual Conference of International Labor Defense

To All Locals and Branches of International Labor Defense and to All Labor Unions and Other Working Class organizations Sympathetic to Its Work:

Greetings!

In compliance with the provisions of the Constitution which provides for the holding of a conference every year, the Executive Committee at its last meeting decided to call the Second Annual Conference of International Labor Defense to be held on Sunday, September 5, 1926.

The representation in the National Conference will be as follows:

1. Each Branch of the I. L. D. is entitled to send one delegate for each fifty members.
2. Each local secretary of the I. L. D. is entitled to come as a delegate.
3. All trade unions, co-operatives, workers' fraternal societies, defense committees and other working class bodies sympathetic to the aims of International Labor Defense are invited to send delegates.
4. Former class-war prisoners are invited to attend the Conference as fraternal delegates.
5. The members of the National Committee of the I. L. D. will attend the Conference as fraternal delegates.
6. The expense of all delegates attending the Conference are to be paid by the delegates

themselves or by the organizations they represent.

On Saturday, September 4th, the day preceding the Conference, a meeting of the full National Committee will be held.

On Monday, September 6th, a special organization conference of the local secretaries of the I. L. D. will be held to review the experiences of the past year and to discuss the practical methods of putting into effect the decisions of the Second Annual Conference.

The Second Annual Conference has a tremendous significance for the work of still further expanding the movement for workers' defense. All local secretaries are urged to give the most serious attention to the work of preparing for the conference and the sending of strong delegations from the I. L. D. units and from other workers' organizations.

National Executive Committee,  
International Labor Defense,



Secretary.

Now is the time for all labor to be aroused and to rally as one vast host to vindicate its asailed honor, to assert its self-respect, and to issue its demand that in spite of the capitalist-controlled courts of Massachusetts honest and innocent workmen whose only crime is their innocence of crime and their loyalty to labor, shall not be murdered by the official hirelings of the corporate powers that rule and tyrannize over the state.

It does not matter what the occupation of the worker may be, what he is in theory or belief, what union or party he belongs to, this is the supreme cause of us all and the call comes to each one of us and to all of us to unite from coast to coast in every state and throughout the whole country to protest in thunder tones against the consummation of that foul and damning crime against labor in the once proud state of Massachusetts.

*A thousand protest meetings should be called at once and ring with denunciation of the impending crime.*

A million letters of indignant resentment should roll in on the governor of Massachusetts and upon members of the house of representatives and the senate of the United States.

It is this, and this alone, that will save Sacco and Vanzetti. We cannot ignore this duty to ourselves, to our martyr comrades, to our cause, to justice and humanity without being guilty of treason to our own manhood and outraging our own souls.

**AROUSE YE TOILING MILLIONS OF THE NATION AND SWEAR BY ALL YOU HOLD SACRED IN THE CAUSE OF LABOR AND IN THE CAUSE OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE AND ALL THINGS OF GOOD REPORT, THAT SACCO AND VANZETTI, YOUR BROTHERS AND MINE, INNOCENT AS WE ARE, SHALL NOT BE FOULLY MURDERED TO GLUT THE VENGEANCE OF A GANG OF PLUTOCRATIC SLAVE DRIVERS!**

## The Labor Defender

Published Monthly by the International Labor Defense

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# The Fight for Sacco and Vanzetti

By Art Shields



Nicola Sacco, his son Dante, and his wife.

ca that has insistently demanded a new trial for Sacco and Vanzetti in the conviction that they were framed up in the celebrated trial in the cage at Dedham courthouse, five years ago. Radical and conservative labor has lined up: even the conservative El Paso convention of the American Federation of Labor went so far as to call the Dedham trial a "ghastly miscarriage of justice."

Today, at the organizing direction of the International Labor Defense, a great movement for their liberation is crystallizing into action the resolutions of protest that the unions have been passing for these five years. Huge mass meetings are being held throughout the land; a million leaflets are being circulated for a starter, and petitions are pouring into the state of Massachusetts.

This is the show down month. Hence the well-

organized outpouring of propaganda by their enemies. Hence the great movement for their release by the workers. The District Attorney of Norfolk County (Wilbar) is urging that the new trial motion now pending before Judge Webster Thayer be overruled and that the men be sentenced to death. He argues, in the newspapers, that the sooner the case of Sacco and Vanzetti is disposed of, the sooner the agitation will stop.

The District Attorney has said that he hopes to have the death sentence passed in July—(the month when this issue of the Labor Defender appears.)

The labor movement cannot work too fast. The District Attorney's demand is supported by a hysterical press. Remember that the new trial motion and the evidence on which it is based go before Judge Thayer. Remember Thayer's record: the way the jury was hand picked; the amazingly unfair charge to the jury; the denial two years ago, of the new trial motions based on confessions of perjury by identification witnesses; the confession of Captain Proctor of the state police that he entered into collusion with District Attorney Katzmann to mislead the jury in the "expert" testimony he gave on Sacco's gun, which he admitted in his confession, could not have fired the mortal bullet, and on other powerful evidence that the trial was a miscarriage of justice. The defense again, in the present motion, has strong evidence; nothing less than the confession of Celestino Madeiros, that he and a band of professional gunmen, not Sacco and Vanzetti, committed the South Braintree payroll murder for which the two workers were convicted. But, considering all this new evidence, remember that it goes before Judge Thayer who threw out the evidence in the new trial motions two years ago.

Let the name of Judge Thayer be a warning. And speed up the agitation.

Agitation saved the life of Tom Mooney. The historical truth of that is authenticated. President Wilson

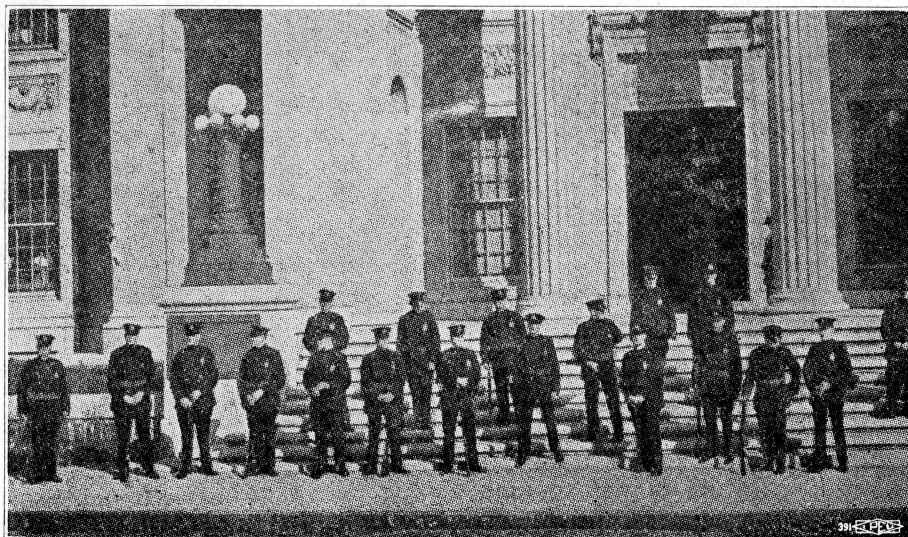
**S**ENATOR BUTLER, open shop cotton mill magnate of New Bedford, Massachusetts, and political boss of the Bay State, would make us believe he is not interested in the Sacco-Vanzetti case and that he does not think anyone is interested except a few labor men. That was the sense of an informal discussion he had with Laurence Todd, Washington correspondent for the Federated Press.

Butler was nervous at the reporter's questions. He fiddled with his watch as he said he did not want to give an interview on the subject.

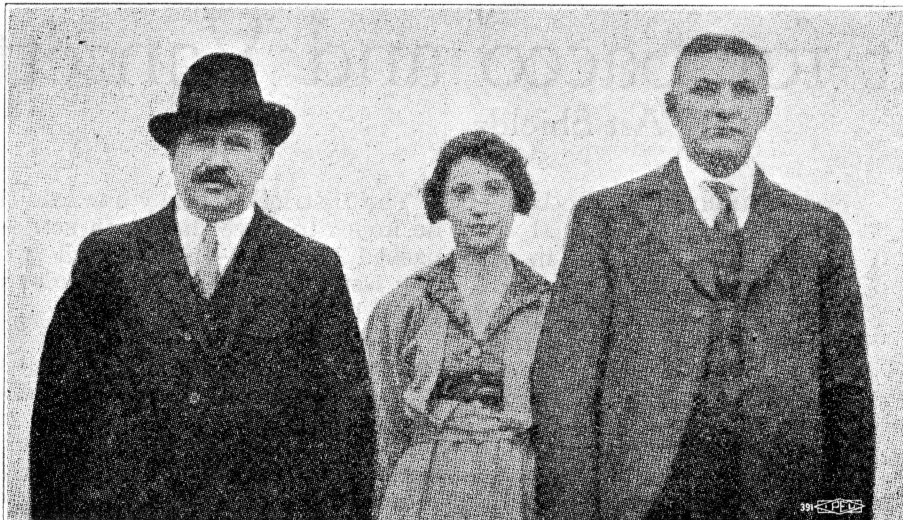
But the Sacco-Vanzetti case cannot be sidetracked so easily. Nor can Butler convincingly deny the interest his group has in the execution of these two labor agitators, when the Boston Post, the Boston Evening Transcript, the Boston Herald and the Boston Traveler, all Republican Party mouthpieces for Butler and his crowd are calling for their death.

Class hatred and the class issue stand out. Out of their own mouths the boss gang are condemned.

Fortunately the workers are answering the challenge. The few labor men the Republican boss would dismiss from his mind, are virtually the entire labor movement of Ameri-



The Courthouse "Atmosphere" During the Trial.



*Three of the Witnesses for the Defense.*

requested Governor Stevens of California to commute Mooney's sentence because of what he called the **international situation**. Stevens made public Wilson's request and was not contradicted by the president. By the **international situation** was meant the international workingclass protest.

Agitation, there is good reason to believe, has already prolonged the lives of Sacco and Vanzetti. A veteran Boston Post man—and conservative as they make 'em too—told me that in his 25 newspaper years in Massachusetts he had never known a murder defense case to be continued as long as has the Sacco-Vanzetti case, on the basis of only one trial.

I referred awhile ago to the campaign of agitation against Sacco and Vanzetti. It is an organized, nationwide campaign of lies. And certainly, as long as the enemy is trying the case out-of-court in a thousand newspapers the workers cannot afford to rest their hopes solely in the court and to keep their mouths shut while they wait for Judge Thayer—and the members of his union on the supreme bench—to give their fellow workers belated justice.

I will refer briefly to one of these lies, disseminated through the newspapers by the state police and District Attorney Wilbar and garbled still further by the Associated Press and by Arthur Brisbane.

A charge of dynamite or some other explosives wrecked the farm house of a man named Samuel Johnson, about two miles out of West Bridgewater, early morning of June 1. It was a terrific explosion, but Johnson, his wife and five children were not injured. At once the state police and the district attorney told newspapermen that friends of Sacco and Vanzetti did it.

No evidence was offered to substantiate this vicious charge. No attempt was made to arrest anyone connected with the defense. The re-

mote and fantastic reason for the accusation given was that Samuel Johnson, whose home was wrecked, was a brother-in-law of Mrs. Simon Johnson, a witness for the state—who lived several miles away.

The defense vehemently repudiated the charge and struck back at the police for making such a baseless accusation, but the damage was done. Eight column headlines ran for days in the papers.

Now electrocute them quickly, was the moral of Wilbar. He told the newspapers that had Sacco and Vanzetti been electrocuted before this the bomb would never have been exploded.

Two workingmen, Sacco, the edge trimmer in a shoe factory; Vanzetti, the pastry cook, the cordage worker, the fisherman. Both with active strike records. (Vanzetti was the most active individual in the big strike against the Plymouth Cordage Company.) Both organizing a protest meeting against the department of justice torture of Andreas Salsedo, which culminated in his death, when they were arrested. (Jurge Thayer admits they had the handbill for the Brockton meeting on them when they were seized; is it likely they would be organizing public meetings a few miles from where they had committed a public murder?) Sacco and Vanzetti, seized at the tail end of the Palmer terror. Grilled for hours about their radical views before the police attempted to pin the charge of murder against them.

Sacco and Vanzetti, no longer two individuals, but symbols of the workingclass. They must be rescued from their enemies.



*Bartolomeo Vanzetti.*



*Lead thru the streets in chains during the trial.*

# Passaic Fights On!

By Max Shachtman

**W**ITH a solidarity that comes of determination, courage and a fine spirit of sacrifice the thousands of textile workers in Passaic fight on. After the first week or two of the struggle fools, and many wise men, said that it could not last very much longer. But now almost a score of weeks has gone by and the dust continues to cover the machines unmolested by any worker. The mills are at standstill, the ranks of the workers are unbroken, and their fine spirit of solidarity is unchanged.

The strike is more than most large strikes a great event. It is inspiring to see these thousands of workers, often divided by barriers of language, creed, and opinion, being fused into a big and powerful mass, like a huge many-bodied giant of labor and determination. A new feeling of hope and courage comes to him who feels the petty jealousies and selfishness of men burned away in the heat of the struggle and the new and finer spirit of fraternity and self-sacrifice and solidarity growing out of the mass. To see all that is truly great and noble in the working class—in the oppressed and illiterate, the miserable



*Weisbord behind bars.*



*Arresting Nancy Sandowsky*

ones, the cripples—to feel these qualities surging grandly through masses who sing and fight for victory!

What is fine in the struggle of the worker has its black counterpart. In fights with their workers, all the low cunning, the brutality and viciousness, the cupidity and flint in the ruling class stands out in sharp contrast. In Passaic this can be seen by any one. Making millions of dollars in profit out of the labor of the mill hands, they have cut wages to the point where it meant either starvation or fight. And when the desperate workers chose fight, they were met with savage attacks by the police, with tear bombs and the fire hose; working class children who paraded in behalf of their parents were

not spared by the clubs of the maintainers of law and order; arrests and beatings have been the order of the day since the strike began, and cynical prostitutes on the legal benches have handed down decisions to uphold the actions of capitalist tools.

Yet, not all the lies and vituperation and beatings and arrests and injunctions have broken the picket lines. Or induced any workers to return to the machines. Not all the opposition has prevented a growing spirit of solidarity from spreading to every section of the labor movement in this country and echoing in lands across the ocean. Admiration for their courage and aid to their fight has resulted, and the spirit grows stronger every day.





*Arresting Strikers—A Daily Occurrence.*

Albert Weisbord, the leader and organizer of the strike, faces many charges in the frame-up which has been launched against him. And those who know the bosses of New Jersey know that they will stop at nothing to railroad him to a long term in the penitentiary. Jack Rubenstein, who led one picket line after another, and was sent to the hospital by police beatings, must also face trial on idiotic charges. Clarence Miller, another of the young militants, and scores of other strikers and organizers are on the list for prison terms. Men and women who sympathized with and spoke for the strikers have also been seized and held under prohibitive bail.

The Passaic strikers do not stand



**ON THE JOB AT PASSAIC**  
*Joseph R. Brodsky, attorney  
for I. L. D.*

alone. They are fighting a battle for all American workers and this is being realized more and more. That is why some half a million workers were represented at the *Support the Passaic Strike Conference* which took place a short while ago. Labor responded to the call for support. With the enthusiasm of the strike itself, the struggle was endorsed. Plans for an even larger campaign for relief than before were proposed and adopted. Cooperation with the united defense committee, in which International Labor Defense, the American Civil Liberties Union, the relief committee and other bodies have joined, was pledged by

the nearly 200 delegates.

This conference is another victory for Passaic. All workers are being drawn into this great fight. And, in addition, Passaic is becoming a symbol of unity for the workers, especially in the sorely-divided textile industry. With the initiative of Passaic, thousands of textile workers throughout the East sent delegates to New York for a conference to work out the means for unifying the too great number of unions which compete with each other for the allegiance of the mill workers. And a big step towards unity and the building of a mighty textile workers' union was taken there.

Passaic is making history for American labor. It is fighting battles that other workers have fought less well and will fight still better. It is blazing a landmark for bigger and more virile and successful struggles for American workers. Against Passaic have united all the natural enemies of the working class. Against Passaic have been used all the forces at the command of a bestial capitalist class. That is why more and more workers must come to the aid of Passaic, for their fight is the fight of all workers.

In the hands of International Labor Defense has been placed the task of organizing the agitation and protest for the Passaic defense, of defending Weisbord and his comrades. A big movement for this work is developing. It must become so strong that it will stop the imprisonment of the strike leaders. It must keep them free to lead this great struggle. It must help Passaic to fight on!



*"Law and Order" in Action.*

# Another Blasphemy Case in Massachusetts?

*Another blasphemy case in Massachusetts? Or will it develop into another trial of workers who have their own political or philosophical opinions and are ready to organize and fight for them? Esther Lowell writes here about the case of the three Portuguese workers of Fall River, Massachusetts, who are anarchists and editors of an anarchist journal in their native language. International Labor Defense immediately took over the defense of the three Portuguese as soon as information about their arrest was received, and is defending them today, in accordance with its non-partisan working class defense policy of working for all persecuted workers, Communist, socialist, anarchist, syndicalist, or workers of no political or philosophical affiliation. The latest report is that the fake "bootlegging" charge has been dropped by the authorities.*

By Esther Lowell

**M**ASSACHUSETTS has another blasphemy case! Scene: Fall River, town of 110 cotton textile mills. Characters: Three young Portuguese mill worker defendants, prosecuted by the aid of the Catholic priest and Portuguese consul.

Through their paper *A Luta* (*The Struggle*), the three young workers have been trying to stir the Portuguese population from stagnation in the industrial centers of southern Massachusetts. They wrote about "privileged classes" and said "Our family is Humanity." They attacked the immoralities of churchmen when the Fall River priest launched a broadside against the Portuguese theater. There are 25,000 Portuguese in Fall River alone and the effects of *A Luta's* blasphemy against the church and state were feared by the mill owners as well as by the priest and the government.

Anthony Bimba's case in Brockton proved that blasphemy under Massachusetts' ancient blue law was hard to make stick today. So Diaminillo Texeira, Antonio De Costa and Antonio Perreira are not being held directly for their blasphemy. Massachusetts authorities even relinquished their first charge of sedition against the workers. But the federal officers were waiting at the courtroom with their warrant for the men on a framed-up rum-running charge and under the federal anti-alien act.

Hearings on the liquor charge have been postponed, the govern-

ment's case is so flimsy. But deportation awaits the three young workers, and probably their four associates in editing *A Luta*, if the federal immigration authorities succeed in their plans: A *Luta's* point of view

## THE THREE ARRESTED WORKERS



*Antonio Alves Perreira, Diamanillo Texeira and Antonio da Costa.*

is that of philosophical anarchism and the government amended its war time hysteria act in the 1920 deportation delirium to permit the exclusion and expelling of aliens propagating such a viewpoint.

But the Portuguese workers of Fall River are rousing to the fight. Already a branch of the International Labor Defense has been formed and a mass meeting with Bishop William Montgomery Brown as speaker planned. Portuguese mill workers have been partly neglected and partly slow themselves to join the textile unions of Fall River and New Bedford. The United Textile Workers has won some; the Ameri-

can Federation of Textile Operatives a few others; but in the main they are unorganized and have been largely inarticulate. Those in Cape Cod fishing fleets and on cranberry bogs or farms have had even less organization experience.

Attorney Harry Hoffman, International Labor Defense counsel in Boston who represented Bimba in his Brockton blasphemy and sedition trial, is assisting Isador S. Levin of Fall River in the defense of the three Portuguese workers.

The men are out on \$3,000 bail each. If immigration commissioner George E. Lilley accepts the case against the workers and forwards it to Washington recommending deportation, defense counsel will seek habeas corpus writs when the men are actually called up for deportation.

## From Galveston, Texas.

Please send me 100 membership cards at once.

The news bulletin which you sent us was read aloud last night at our meeting.

Many members of the I. W. W. have been joining our branch and our most active worker has been a member of the M. T. W. local here—B. J. Akerly. Some of the members have asked whether you will publish financial reports.

A. M. Algeo, Galveston.

*THE THREE ARRESTED WORKERS*



*Antonio Alves Perreira, Diamanillo Texeira  
and Antonio da Costa.*

# We Picket the Lithuanian Legation

By Bernard Herman

**O**VER 60 members of the International Labor Defense picketed the Lithuanian Legation on Saturday, May 15, for the release of the 92 working class leaders who were facing death sentences the following Monday, May 17.

This is the third and largest picket on Ambassador's Row in about a year's time. First there was the picket before the Polish embassy in the campaign for the release of the leader of the Polish workers in the Polish parliament, Lanzutsky; then followed the demonstration of the I. L. D. before the Hungarian embassy for the release of Rakosi and the 105 leaders of the Hungarian working class, when 45 members of the I. L. D. marched thru a pouring rain for over an hour till the police broke up a picket which the rain and storm could not do.

If we look back over these three pickets, we note that there is some connection; that all have to deal with cases of persecution and oppression of the workers in those little countries surrounding Soviet Russia. All three—Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, are a part of the cordon sanitaire, whose purpose it is to bottle up and isolate the only Workers' and Peasants' government. All are military, White Guard states, military outposts of the great imperialist powers. We find in all of them a gigantic military machine totally out of proportion to the size of the country or to the productive capacities of these bankrupt countries. In Poland, a country of 12 million population there is a huge army of 350,000 soldiers as against an army of 560,000 in Russia which has a population of 140 million. In all the countries in this ring the workers suffer under the iron heel of an open military dictatorship. Only the gold pouring into Poland from the French bankers, only the gold of Wall Street stabilizing the Horthy regime, only the gold flowing into Lithuania from the British imperialists, maintains the military apparatus by which the overwhelming majority of the population of these countries is held in subjection.

In little Lithuania there are now 400 working class leaders and militants imprisoned. In the past three

years, 23 have been executed by the Lithuanian White Terror. 92 were to have been sentenced to death on May 17. Only the world-wide protest of the working class could save their lives, as it saved the lives of Rakosi and the other Hungarian working class leaders. And the International Labor Defense responded to the defense of these brave fighters as it did last year. The demonstration before the Lithuanian legation was the biggest yet held by the I. L. D. in Washington. Members of the I. L. D. from Baltimore and Washington, including the Lithuanian I. L. D. branch of Baltimore, led by Comrades Herman, John Kutavich and J. Stesaukaitas of the Philadelphia I. L. D. picketed the legation for over an hour and a half. The picket was an impressive sight. We bore large banners and placards printed in red and black with a score of slogans: "The International Labor Defense Fights for the Freedom of the 92 Lithuanian Working Class Leaders," "The Hands of Lithuanian White Guard Dictators Drip with the Blood of the Lithuanian Workers," "British Imperialism Enslaves the Workers of Lithuania as well as the workers of Great Britain and the British Colonies." Two by two, in a long procession we marched slowly back and forth before the white marble legation. We rang the bell of the legation, whereupon the denizens made their appearance. When the Lithuanian minister, Bizauskas, had gotten a good view of our banners, it frightened him so much that he made a rapid retreat thru the back door. For when the newspaper men

went up to the legation to interview the minister concerning the demonstration on his front lawn, they found that he had fled.

The police soon made their appearance. They were completely bewildered. They rushed to the telephone box on the corner to get further instructions. Several more policemen arrived. Carefully and intently they watched the picket. Finding that we were not breaking any laws, the law against picketing not having passed yet, they contented themselves with clearing traffic which was becoming extremely congested before the Lithuanian legation. Newspaper reporters swarmed, cameras clicked one after another, and under the glare of this publicity the Lithuanian lackey fled from his palace of blood and marble.

## CORRECTION.

Accompanying the article on "Our Second Conference" on page 87 of the June issue of the Labor Defender is a photograph with the caption John Lamb. The photograph is one of Bert Bland, another of the Centralia prisoners, not of John Lamb.

## NOTE

A typographical error: On page 118, fifth line on the page should read: "in Weinberg's automobile at 15 minutes before two."

## OUR NEXT ISSUE

The August Labor Defender will contain, in addition to other excellent material, an article on Frank Little and his lynching, written by James P. Cannon.



*Members of International Labor Defense Picketing the Lithuanian Legation at Washington in behalf of worker and farmer prisoners in Lithuania.*

Lithuanian

n

man



*Members of International Labor Defense Picketing the Lithuanian Legation at Washington in behalf of worker and farmer prisoners in Lithuania.*

# Mooney and Billings: Ten Years in Hell

By Robert Minor

**IT** WAS on July 27th, 1916—ten years ago—that Tom Mooney and Warren Billings were placed in the county jail at San Francisco to be tried in the so-called bomb cases.

The "Mooney case" has been a world affair during most of that ten year period. Those ten years, counted from the beginning of the pro-war movement in this country in 1916, when a series of "preparedness parades" were held throughout the country—the one in San Francisco being accompanied by a bloody catastrophe followed by the arrest of Mooney and Billings—up to the present time, have been for the whole world the richest ten years in history. Within that decade three mighty empires—those of the German and Austrian kaisers and the Russian tsar—have fallen before the forces of war and revolution. Within that decade the European "world war" became a world war in which the United States was included. Europe, the base of two thousand years of civilization, was torn into a new pattern. The biggest phenomenon of centuries—the working class state power of the Soviets, arose upon the ruins of the tsarist autocracy. Two more Soviet republics arose and fell in Bavaria and Hungary. A new French empire threw its power across Europe, and then as quickly decayed. The British empire, the largest of all in the history of the world, added new empires to its fold and then rapidly receded before the new imperial power of North America. The storms of revolution swept over the vast continent of Asia,



"And Mr. Flickert says to me, 'Mrs. Kidwell, if you can be quite sure you seen Tom Mooney, you gat a garden for your husband'."

A Cartoon of the Time.

bringing into the current of modern history more than half of the world's population which had slept for centuries.

The world has been shaken to its foundations and started on a new epoch of revolution in these ten years since a little street car strike in San Francisco in July, 1916, which threw the name of Tom Mooney into world history. And in most of this time the "case of Tom Mooney" has played a part in the affairs of nations.

In these ten years, Warren Billings, taken as a boy of the picket



Rena Mooney and two music pupils.

line, has spent inside of Folsom penitentiary all of the adult life that he has known. Tom Mooney has seen the gallows built for him and has grown into a grey haired man in the run-way between the death cell and the cell of life imprisonment.

As the tenth anniversary of the arrest of Tom Mooney approaches, it is well for the labor movement to take stock of itself. The Mooney case has more to do with the labor movement than it has to do even with Mooney and Billings. Failure to rescue Mooney and Billings is a failure of the labor movement. The presence of these two men in life cells—whom all men know to be utterly innocent and unconnected with the crime of murder—is a standing insult, a sneer and a challenge to the labor movement.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the arrest of Mooney, the labor movement should revive the world-wide campaign to compel the liberation of Mooney and Billings.

With this idea in mind, I will attempt a brief review of the "story of Tom Mooney," than which there is nothing more interesting or more vital in all of the annals of the struggles between capital and labor.

It started out in San Francisco as a simple street car strike. Mooney, a long-standing member of Local No. 164 of the Molders' Union, was appointed by the Amalgamated Association of Electric and Street Railway Employees to organize the workers of the United Railways, and the drive for organization led to a strike. The actual strike lasted hardly more than one hour, before it was broken. But the strike was one of a series of events in a long labor war in California. The labor movement had gone through a succession of defeats, and the open shop movement, under the leadership of Frederick J. Koster, president of the Chamber of Commerce, was deploying its forces for an open shop drive to sweep trade unionism from the Pacific coast.

It happened that the beginning of this open shop drive coincided with the "preparedness" movement for putting the United States into the world war. The "open shop drive" and the "preparedness" movement converged in San Francisco, with the forces of capital and labor sharply taking opposite sides on both issues. The Chamber of Commerce, which led and organized the open shop movement, also led and organized the movement to hold a "preparedness parade" in which it was planned



Israel Weinberg.



391-REPS

**"And Mr. Fickert says to me, 'Mrs. Kidwell, if you can be quite sure you seen Tom Mooney, you get a parden for your husband'."**

26

*A Cartoon of the Time.*



*Rena Mooney and two music pupils.*





*Israel Weinberg.*

to have 150,000 persons participate. The United Railways street car company and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company were the most aggressive of the corporation interests in the movement. Organized labor opposed the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce to force the workers of all establishments to march in the parade, and by its opposition cut down the size of the parade from an estimated 150,000 to an actual 22,000 marchers.

The parade was set for July 22nd. The social atmosphere was charged with electricity as the day approached. Many anonymous warning letters were received by prominent persons connected with the parade arrangements, in which threats were made. But the authorities and the business interests prevented all public knowledge of these threats for fear of a dampening effect upon the demonstration. However, the San Francisco Labor Council received word of such warning letters and took the precaution of communicating to the trade

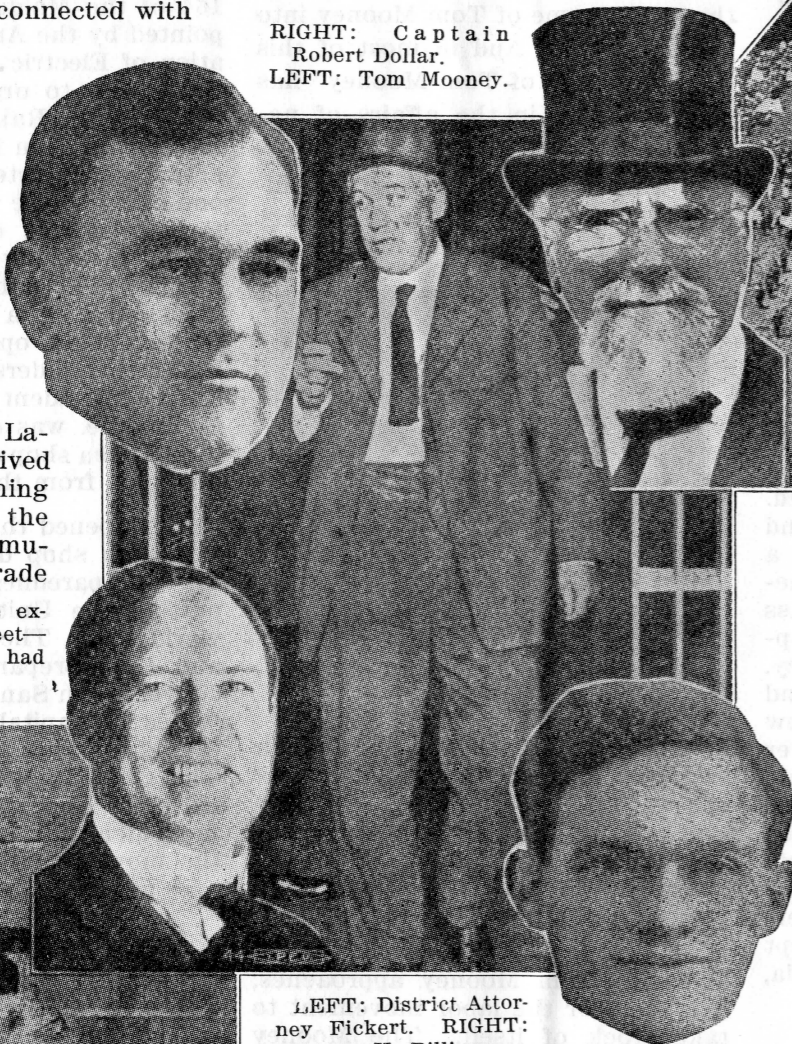
BELOW: Where the explosive struck the street—after the frame-up ring had "fixed" the street.

unions the advice to be on guard against probable actions by agents provocateurs for implication of the labor movement.

At six minutes past two o'clock on the afternoon of July 22nd, while the parade was in motion, a bomb or some other explosive instrument was detonated in a side street among spectators and ten persons were killed or mortally wounded.

Within one hour the police "frame-up system" of handling this case, all the details of which have since been discussed in every civilized land, was well under way for the implication in the affair of those persons who had been most active and directly concerned in the street car strike the week before.

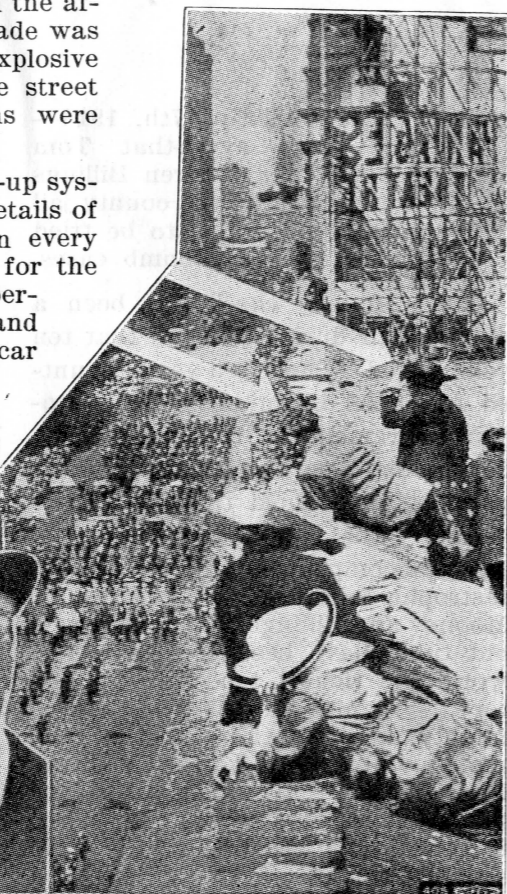
RIGHT: Captain Robert Dollar.  
LEFT: Tom Mooney.



LEFT: District Attorney Fickert. RIGHT: Warren K. Billings.

The method was, first of all to turn the investigation entirely over to the control and direction of the chief of detectives of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the United Railways Company, an ex-Pinkerton named Martin Swanson. The entire police department including the chief of city detectives, Duncan Matheson, followed entirely the dictation of this private corporation detective, Swanson. An important detail is that the district attorney (state prosecutor), Charles M. Fickert, was a creature of the United Railways, having been placed in of-

BELOW: The 'Frisco Preparedness Parade. Arrows point to Tom and Rena Mooney.



LEFT CENTER: Frank Oxman, one of the prosecution's perjurers.

fice by the United Railways for the purpose of dismissing some old indictments against some officials of that company. Himself virtually an employee of the street car corporation, the district attorney gave his authority in support of the United Railways detective.

Therefore there was no investigation whatever of the direct evidence concerning the nature and cause of the fatal explosion. Instead of an objective investigation of the facts concerning the catastrophe, all direct evidence of essential importance as to the cause of the explosion was discarded, and the dossier of the United Railways concerning the leaders of the labor troubles of the street railway company and of the gas and electric company were taken as the basis and beginning of the investigation. Before the heat of the explosion had cooled, a squad of men under the direction of Martin Swanson had almost completely obliterated the traces of the explosion. All eye-witnesses who

THE FRAME-UP RING

BELOW: John McDonald, a prosecution witness who admitted falsity of testimony. He "seen 'em as in a dream."



and terrorized and threatened others. The entire press was mobilized to the service of the prosecution and refused to publish anything of any sort except the propaganda issued by the district attorney. Everything was directed against the strike leader and carefully calculated to make the preparedness parade explosion the means of a quick and sweeping victory of the open shop movement.

There was recruited for the first trial, that of Warren K. Billings, the most remarkable set of witnesses that had ever appeared in a criminal trial. Aside from a few persons who testified on purely routine matters, the only essential witnesses used in the prosecution were the following:

BELOW: Homer Waters, prosecution witness, ex-convict, gambler, and gunman.



A convicted thief who had been released by police favor. Another, the now famous John McDonald, who has since confessed under oath that his story told under police coaching was false, that it was changed twice by dictation of street

BELOW: Mellie Edeau and Sadie Edeau, self-confessed perjurers for the frame-up ring.



reported to the police that they had actually seen the explosion—six witnesses in all—were discarded by the detectives, and the district attorney issued a sensational statement accusing the leader of the recent street car strike, Tom Mooney, of having bombed the "preparedness" parade.

A reward which eventually totaled \$17,000 was offered through the newspapers for any evidence leading to the conviction of any person or persons on the charge of murder, while the district attorney in a series of public statements sharply indicated that the persons to be convicted were Thomas J. Mooney and his associates in the street car strike.

Mooney as well as his wife and three associates in the labor movement, Warren K. Billings, past president of the Shoe Workers (though then only 23 years of age), Edward D. Nolan of Lodge No. 68 of the International Association of Machinists, and Israel Weinberg, member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and member of the Executive Board of the San Francisco Jitney Bus Drivers' Union, were locked in the county jail. From that moment on a reign of police terror enveloped San Francisco. The police sent away from the city two or more of the eye-witnesses of the explosion

car company detective, and that his identification of Mooney and Billings was fictitious.

A prostitute, once a defendant in a murder trial, who has since confessed that her testimony was false and that it was given under inducement of the offer of a share in the reward.

Her mother, who has confessed that her testimony was false and that it was given under promise of a pardon for her husband (then in prison for forgery) as well as a share in the reward.

The mother's extra-legal lover, who at first refused to accept police dictation of his testimony until threatened with prosecution for adultery in living with the mother of the prostitute. (When he agreed to perjure himself he was appointed as a "police guard" for the woman and permitted to live with

her on a police salary.)

Two alleged chance patients of the dentist (who happened to be the only two "patients" the dentist had whose names were not registered on the office books). Of these, one was a petty thief, once convicted of petty larceny in Alaska, where he had run a gambling house. The other, a man from Honolulu, not known to have had any police record.

The testimony of all but the first two of these witnesses related solely to a supposed event at a dentist's office a full mile away from the scene of the tragedy. Under ordinary circumstances, not one word of it would have been taken seriously. It was brought in only because of an absolute lack of any real testimony that could in the remotest way connect Mooney with the crime at the scene at which it occurred. The dentist's office, we repeat, was a mile away from the explosion. The theory voiced by the prosecution was that

Warren Billings came to the dental office with a suitcase containing a time-bomb (set to go off by an alarm-clock arrangement), and, contemplating throwing this bomb from the roof, remained there a while, then gave up the plan and left. Mooney and Mrs. Mooney were, according to this testimony, on the sidewalk below (at the point where the bomb was to be dropped), shouting orders to Billings above. The use of such an absolutely idiotic story can be accounted for only by the fact that there were no other means of identifying

BELOW: Estelle Smith, alias Moore, alias Starr, a former prostitute and a star witness for the state.



ABOVE: Chas. Organ, who refused a bribe to frame up Mooney.



Mooney and the fact that police characters subject to manipulation as "witnesses" are not found easily at any point where they may be wanted.

Warren Billings was convicted on the testimony of these witnesses and on this absolutely preposterous story. After the utterly disgraceful farce of the testimony, one of the assistant prosecutors, James Brennan, overcome with shame, requested the jury not to give the death penalty, but to convict Billings so that he would then tell who the real criminals might be. As the jury was composed of twelve professional jurymen living solely by the fees obtained by the prosecutor's permission to serve on juries, they construed the request of Brennan as an order, and complied. It was for this reason alone that Billings was not hanged, but was given life imprisonment. The preponderance of the evidence in his favor was so great that the common talk of the court house was that the conviction of Billings was secured merely as a help to "get Tom Mooney."

As the date for the trial of Mooney approached, the defense obtained important information. It had been previously known that a set of snap-

shot photographs of the preparadness parade, taken by a young man from the roof of a building next door to the home of the Mooneys, showed both Tom Mooney and his wife watching the parade among a crowd of spectators on the roof of the building in which they lived. As this place was more than a mile away from the scene of the explosion, and as a well-known jeweler's street-clock appeared in the photograph, the pictures might be of extreme importance to Mooney's defense. But when copies of the photographs, which had been confiscated from the young amateur photographer by the police, were obtained by the defense, the face of the clock in the photograph could not be read. After Billings had been convicted, a police photographer accidentally let slip a piece of information that had the value of life and death. It was that the copies of the photograph that had been turned over to the defense were not direct prints from the negative itself, but were the result of manipulation in the photographic department of the police. Instead of a direct print from the negative, the police had given the defense attorney copies obtained by re-photographing from successive copies until the result was about six

times removed from the original film. In this way the photograph had been so dimmed that the face of the street clock could no longer be read to ascertain the time at which Mooney's presence at his home (a mile and a

quarter from the murder-scene) was established by the photo.

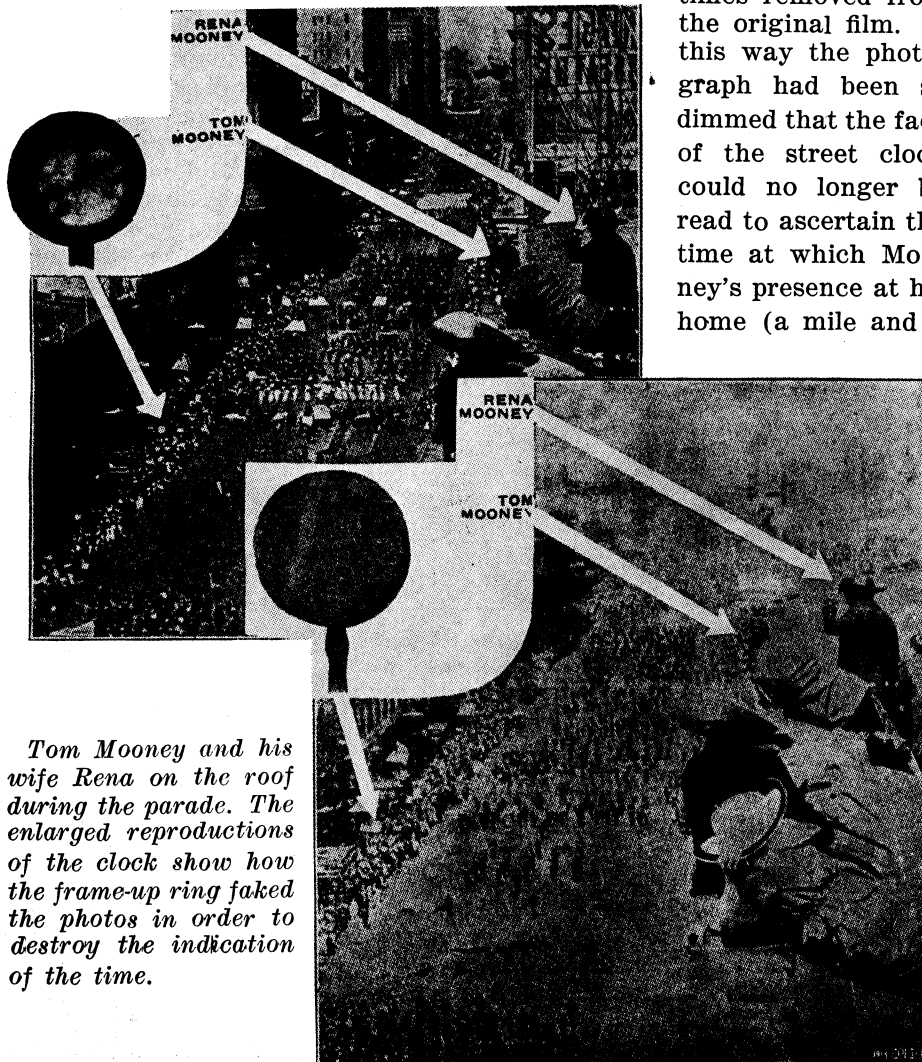
By strenuous insistence the defense attorney persuaded the court to order the district attorney to permit the defense to make prints from the negatives. In these prints the time on the clock dial was easily visible. Three of the pictures showed Mooney and his wife. One had been snapped at two minutes before two o'clock, another at one minute past two, and a third showed the time at four minutes past two o'clock. The testimony of the state's witnesses had been that Mooney and Billings were at the scene of the crime (one and a quarter miles away from this clock) at precisely that time. It could no longer be disputed that ALL testimony regarding Mooney's alleged presence at the murder scene was false.

At the trial of Mooney the defense exhibited an enormous photographic enlargement of the face of the street clock. It was taken for granted that this undisputed evidence (the time on the clock was admitted, the accuracy of the clock was admitted, and identity of Mooney and his wife was admitted) would free Mooney and Billings and put an end to the prosecution of the strike leaders.

But the jury was composed (as was afterward exposed) by the fraudulent means of a mechanical trick with the jury wheel by which the court clerk drew from the wheel only names that had been selected by the district attorney in advance. The foreman of the jury who had been selected by secret arrangement before his name was drawn from the wheel, was carried in a closed automobile every night during the trial to a secret conference with an assistant of the district attorney. The jury as a whole had been fraudulently selected by the trick of the jury wheel. There was no chance for an acquittal, regardless of what the evidence might have been.

The state's "evidence" brought forth for the trial of Mooney was vastly different from the testimony of the same witnesses in the Billings' trial. The former chief witness, the derelict, John McDonald, who had convicted Billings by swearing that he saw Mooney at the scene of the catastrophe at eight minutes before two o'clock, and until four minutes after two, now testified that it was not at that time at all, but much earlier. Other witnesses changed their testimony in all respects relating to time, except some who were dropped altogether. Then appeared a new star witness—the famous "cattle man from Oregon"—who

(Continued on page 118)



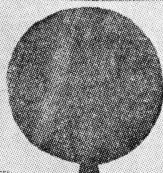
Tom Mooney and his wife Rena on the roof during the parade. The enlarged reproductions of the clock show how the frame-up ring faked the photos in order to destroy the indication of the time.

times removed from the original film. In this way the photograph had been so dimmed that the face of the street clock could no longer be read to ascertain the time at which Mooney's presence at his home (a mile and a



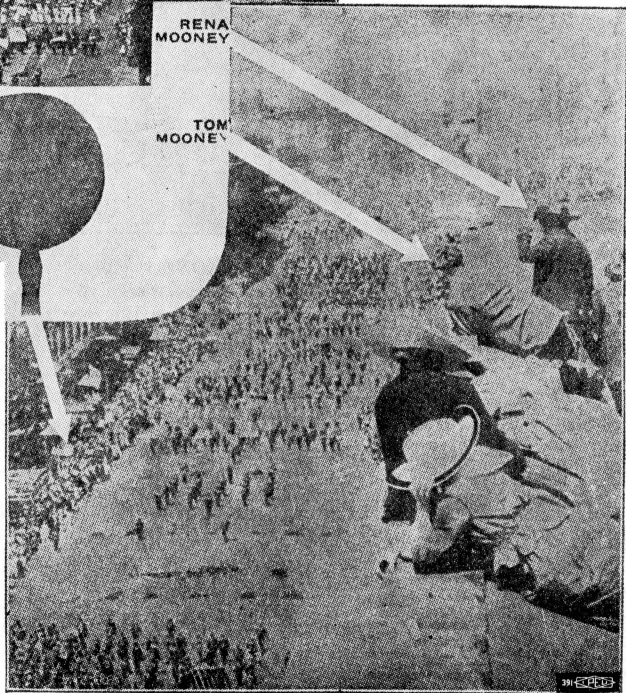
RENA MOONEY

TOM MOONEY



RENA MOONEY

TOM MOONEY



*Tom Mooney and his wife Rena on the roof during the parade. The enlarged reproductions of the clock show how the frame-up ring faked the photos in order to destroy the indication of the time.*

# The Challenge of Centralia

By Ralph Chaplin

**N**EARLY everyone, these days, has forgotten the "feeling" of the troubled days that followed in the wake of the war. Radicals of various shades of color carry on propaganda—holding meetings, publishing literature and carrying on, in different ways, the activities necessary to the growth of whatever organizations to which they may belong. At present these activities as a rule, just as in pre-war days, meet with less drastic open opposition. This is because the labor movement is more dormant and less threatening at present, and it is in no way to be attributed to a change of heart of the perpetrators of the white terror of the Palmer days. The Passaic strike and the Sacco-Vanzetti case are proof enough of this. If the radical may now speak out without imminent danger from the policeman's club or the judge's sentence he should guard himself against illusions. It is not my purpose here to preach optimism to those who make a fetish of "civil liberties" or to induct a feeling of false security to the faint-hearted, but merely to call attention to the very obvious fact that things at the present moment are not as hard for the man or woman blest with unorthodox views as they were a few



No one can understand the action of the Centralia loggers in defending themselves in their union hall unless the circumstances which compelled that action are understood. That is why it is necessary to recall the "feeling" of the days of the White Terror in America. To some of us it is far easier to remember than to forget this thing, but unfortunately, the vast mass of the populace is as lethargic as ever—only stirring lazily to protest when their "own" liberties are menaced. The greater, wider vision—it seems—which unites the interests of the individual with those of the larger social aggregation—the class—is hidden from their view. Things are as they are, they think, and if workingmen are in prison, why that is their own hard luck. This is the point of view which must be battered down before the nation can be aroused at the great injustice done to workingmen during the period of hysteria.

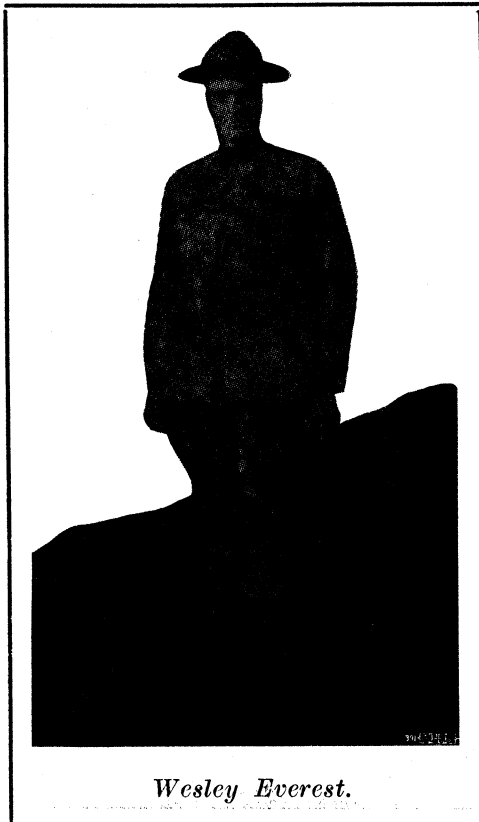
In my own case I can see plainly the inevitability of the deed of defense that was committed on Armistice Day, 1919, at Centralia. It was an act of desperation—almost of despair—but I can see plainly now that it had to be. If it hadn't have happened in Centralia, it would have happened somewhere else. If you hound and beat and mob men (no matter who they are) long enough, sooner or later someone will take a notion to defend himself. And the Centralia incident is the result of a long series of outrages perpetrated against non-conformist workingmen and their organizations and meeting places. Over three hundred halls were raided and many occupants manhandled during the White Terror of these days. Then Centralia happened!

It would sound foolish to attempt to justify the action of a man who is battling to defend his life—and that is what the loggers at Centralia were doing when they shot into the mob which was breaking into their union hall on Armistice Day.

No doubt it seemed to the loggers that they were doing the only thing left for them to do when they acted as they did. That is where the "feeling" of the White Terror comes in. A great many workers know what the feeling is like and some liberals think they do. But no one who knows anything at all about it can hold bitterness against the men who defended themselves with arms from an armed mob on the day of the first

short years ago, and to point out the basic reason for it.

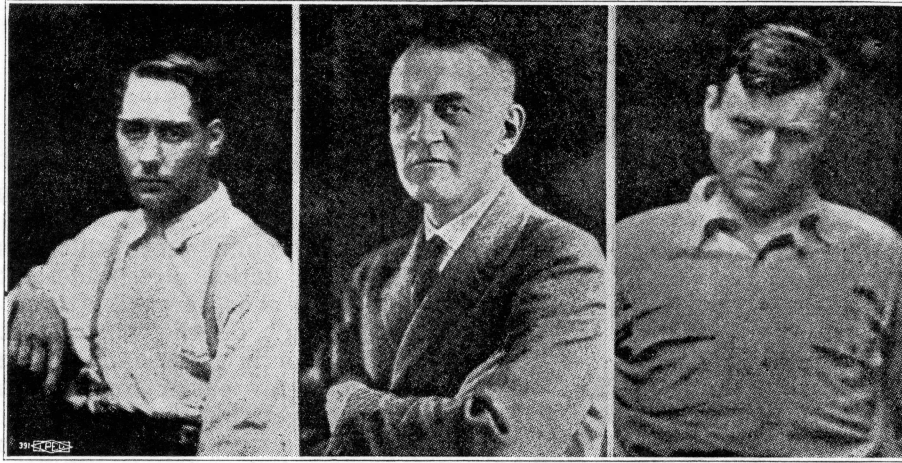
Even though the White Terror of war and post-war days has lifted for most of us, still the victims of this period of repression and tyranny are, some of them, still suffering for their devotion to the cause of freedom. These men are not fundamentally different from the usual run of workers, yet they are suffering a vicarious punishment for the rest of us. The whole world knows, for instance, that Sacco and Vanzetti are innocent, and even the most rabid Rotarian will admit, when pressed, that the Centralia defendants did only what he himself—or any other human being—would have been like to have done under the same circumstances. But innocence or guilt make very little difference now; the men are in prison and truth is the most fragile key in the world with which to unlock iron doors.



Wesley Everest.



*Wesley Everest.*



*Eugene Barnett,  
Still in prison.*

*George Vanderveer,  
Defense attorney.*

*James McInerney.  
After the third degree.*

celebration of the armistice. And surely there is not a man or woman alive who, judging the case from the standpoint of justice—judging the case according to its merits as a class problem or a human problem, who could say that they wish these loggers to remain longer in prison. There were few union halls open in the lumber country of the Pacific and Centralia was one of the few. The union itself had been forced underground out there, and delegates could function for organization or defense work only with the greatest difficulty. Defense meetings in various cities were stubbornly—often fiercely—opposed. Organization meetings were out of the question. In 1919 and 1920 I put in almost a year on the Pacific coast doing defense work and I can vouch for the fact that the employing interests were not strewing roses in the path of anyone who had a good word to say for labor or for those who went to prison for the cause of Labor. Some meetings

were broken up, others were prohibited and held in disguise. Every possible obstacle was thrown in the way of perfectly legitimate defense work. At Bellingham and Stockton the mob was on the job. At the latter place there was no meeting—too much mob; at the former place there was a fine, big meeting—too many loggers! It was only by sheer accident that I did not speak at Centralia just before the tragedy. As it was I spoke in Los Angeles on the following day. Many legionnaires were in attendance at this meeting and the atmosphere was tense all the time. But wiser council prevailed. The storm didn't break until the following day when the defense offices in the German building were wrecked; women and children being forced to jump from the second story windows to es-



*ABOVE; John M. Wilson. LEFT; C. D. Cunningham, prosecuting attorney. RIGHT; Frank P. Christensen, the "fixer" for the prosecution. BELOW; Tom Morgan the Judas who turned "state's evidence."*

cape the black-jacks and clubs of the hooligans who were expressing their patriotism in this manner.

After the tragedy at Centralia I went to Montesano to act as publicity man for the defense. The trial was held under unusual circumstances. It was impossible for the loggers to obtain a semblance of justice in that court room. Every effort to get the truth of their case to the public met with sternest opposition. Judicial murder is all that could be expected and that is what the loggers got from a vicious court and a frightened jury that was "trying to do the right thing." Some folks in America may forget what the "feeling" of the White Terror is like. But the group of militant loggers at Walla Walla prison will not be among that number.

These men have been locked up for a long time now—almost six years. Their greatest menace is no longer the wrath of the master class

but the the indifference of their own. The only thing that can keep them in prison for the duration of their savage sentences is the apathy of men and women out here in the "free" world who have more good intentions than determination. The men in Walla Walla need a defense campaign badly and their families need relief all the time. The women and children are the greatest sufferers in cases like this.

The Centralia case has the makings of another Dreyfus case. Will all sections of the class conscious workers be capable of uniting their forces for this task?

*BELOW: The burial of Wesley Everest's mutilated body.*



# Matt Schmidt

By Anton Johannsen



Matthew A. Schmidt.



Dave Caplan.

**M**ATTHEW A. SCHMIDT was born in the backwoods of Wisconsin 44 years ago. He came to Chicago in 1900, worked at his trade as a woodworker and was a very active member of the Amalgamated Wood Workers' Union.

Politically Matt was a free lance. He seemed to think one should rest one's conclusions on evidence, and the great social problems should be worked out by engineers. He preferred to divide the crowd not by good and bad people, but rather by wise and foolish folks.

Matt was a first class mechanic. He studied the theory of engineering, and was ever alert in his trade to find improved methods of production.

In the union he was a real independent individual, philosophically tolerant and sympathetic to the short-comings of his fellow men.

Like many other young men Matt drifted westward and soon found himself out in California in 1910 assisting labor's effort to organize Los Angeles. In June, 1910, the iron trades declared a general strike out in Los Angeles, which soon involved the building trades. The response to the strike was so great that union and non-union men left their employment, and the city's industries were paralyzed completely. All unions in California assessed themselves 25 cents a week to finance the fight. The spirit and activity of the strikers was all and more than we had hoped for. The fight was on—hope had unseated despair—Los Angeles was destined to come under the banner of unionism.

The Employers' Association had the city council pass their famous anti-picketing ordinance. Labor was denied the right to urge in a peaceful manner, any person to enlist in its cause. Men and women of labor were thrown into jail by the hundreds—and on October 1st came the Los Angeles Times disaster. Shortly thereafter came the picked grand jury with Earl Rogers, leading attorney for the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, sworn in as special prosecutor.

Prominent labor men from San Francisco were hailed into the bullpen of this grand jury. After seven weeks investigation 21 blanket indictments charging murder were voted against three unknown men.

In April, 1911, came the arrest of the McNamaras, dramatized by Burns, and the kept press screamed for labor's blood in every city. Labor officials called a conference in Indianapolis. It was agreed to put back of the defense all of organized labor's resources. Clarence Darrow was employed as the chief counsel. The trial was set for October 5, 1911. On November 28, 1911, Bert Franklin was arrested charged with jury bribing. On December 1, 1911, the McNamaras came into court and pleaded guilty, which caused consternation in the ranks of labor the world over.

The enemy of labor took on new courage. Federal grand juries were hastily called into action. Fifty-four men were indicted at Indianapolis, and four men were indicted in Los Angeles charged with transporting

dynamite interstate. Judge Anderson was selected to preside at the trial of the 54 defendant members of the Iron Workers' Union from various cities in the United States. The trial took place at Indianapolis October, 1912, and 45 men were railroaded to Leavenworth prison.

Three years after came the arrest of Matthew Schmidt and David Caplan, the former arrested in New York and the latter in Seattle. Once more Burns, with the aid of the kept press, dramatized the story in a fashion with the hope of frightening labor and strengthening the iron fist of capital.

The two victims were brought to Los Angeles and placed on trial charged with murder on the theory that they aided the McNamaras in the purchase of dynamite which destroyed the Times Building on October 1, 1910.

After a long drawn out trial Schmidt was found guilty and sentenced to prison for life. Caplan was sentenced to 10 years; and the drama of Burns and his paid agents came to an end.

Matt Schmidt has been in prison since February 13, 1915. His attitude toward life is philosophical and scientific. His interest in labor is as hopeful today as it has ever been. He is in every sense worthy of labor's support. Let there be no slackening in our efforts to secure his early release. His fighting spirit was and still is an inspiration to those that are privileged with his contact.



Anton Johannsen.



# Voices FROM Prison

## From Vanzetti

May 23, 1926.

Dear Friends of the International Labor Defense:

The echo of your campaign in our behalf has reached my heart. I repeat, I will repeat to the last, only the people, our comrades, our friends, the world revolutionary proletariat can save us from the powers of the capitalist reactionary hyenas, or vindicate our names and our blood before history . . . .

There are some who think that our case is a trial for a common crime; that our friends should contest our innocence but not turn the case into a political issue, because it would only damage us.

Well, I could answer to them all that our case is more than a political case, is a case of class-war in which our enemies are personally interested to lose us—not only for class purposes, but for personal passions, resentments, and fear. That we don't have to wait for further proof to be positive of their hatred, unfairness, blood-thirsty determination to deny us every right, to tramp upon every reason, and to murder us, as proved by the Boston capitalist press to the State Supreme Court's decision and its pressing demands of our prompt execution . . . .

Every reasonable person should interpret the protest as it is, a protest against a plotted judicial murder. And I could bring as witnesses the Italian Royal Consul of Boston and the ex-Italian Royal Ambassador at Washington. Both of them have studied the case; the former one has almost daily assisted at the trial. Both have either publicly and officially declared that our trial was "a vulgar frame-up at which not a shadow of evidence was produced against us. Whereas the defense demonstrated our innocence beyond reasonable doubt by strong and attendable alibis and many unconfutable eye-witnesses: that Sacco and Vanzetti were convicted on political and racial hatred because they are Italians and anarchist.

We could show to them all, by the very court record, that my first trial at the Plymouth Court was so impudent and false as to reach the form and the substance of a supreme and absolute obscenity . . . .

With the heart on the lips I have spoken to you, in utter sincerity.

Fraternally yours,

Bartolomeo Vanzetti.

## From Sacco

May 31, 1926.

Dear Comrades:

I have received your kind letter of the 21st and I was pleased to get it, and also your telegram that was sent to me by Sac-

co-Vanzetti Defense Committee—right after the day or so that the Supreme Court refused to grant us a new trial. Certainly your unchanged solidarity toward your two comrades, if it did nothing else, brought me a great relief, for your brotherly and unturned spirit that you are showing toward your brother comrades victims of an unjust persecution.

Therefore, after your request, I could not go without sending you these few lines to tell you that we should not delude ourselves any more, because, if we think for a while

always and everytime the martyrdom of the proletariat. But, however, we will stick like a good Communist soldier to the end of the battle and looking into the eyes of our enemy face to face, to tell them our last breath—which I had always faith—that you, the comrades and all the workers of the world solidarity would free Sacco and Vanzetti tomorrow.

Meanwhile best wishes to all from my Comrade Vanzetti, who joins with my most fraternal greeting.

Your loyal comrade,

Ferdinando N. Sacco.



Peter John Dirks.

and observe by following along all the impartiality and obstinacy that we have passed through these long years of struggle, while every time we thought that the case was looking well and bright to us, something or the other always came to disappoint us. While on the other hand the case still continues to look dark and impenetrable as midnight can look in a furious storm.

This is exactly the situation that we are in today. Hence, let us tell you sincerely, dear comrade, that for hereafter I will never fall into another new delusion again, if I don't see first the day of my freedom.

Even when Mrs. Elizabeth G. Evans—that through all these struggle years she has been kind to me as kind as good mother can be, come to tell me "Nick! you gain." No! No! Six long torment years gives me enough experience because it is a great masterpiece for me and to anybody else not to be disappointed any more. Poor mother! She is so sincere and faithful to the law of the man that she has forgot very early that the history of all the government it were

## Jesus Gonzales

Hunstville, Texas.

Box 32, May 30, 1926.

Dear Comrades:  
Greetings!

In reply to your favor of the 24th, I am penning a note to you with the same pleasure as always.

Comrades, it is a long time since you heard from me, and I therefore want you to know that on the 22nd of December I fell sick and was 15 days in bed from the 29th of March to the 14th of April. Up to the 15th of April things were pretty bad. I appear to be somewhat better now. Now I am together with Rangel in the same place.

I understood that you would be interested to hear from me, but because of my illness it was not possible to answer. Now I am on my feet again. I shall not neglect to write promptly in the future. Rather let the light of day fail than the gratitude of a comrade.

I want you to know, my dear comrades, that the \$5 reached me.

With this I take my leave of you for the time being.

With a fraternal greeting to all,

Jesus Gonzalez.

## A "Wobbly" Seaman

Maine State Prison,  
Thomaston, Maine,  
May 26th, 1926.

Mr. James P. Cannon,  
Executive Secretary,

Dear Comrades:

I received the Labor Defender, and your welcome letter. I was just finishing reading the Defender when your letter arrived. Well dear comrade you wish to know how I came to be in prison, and to be frank with my comrades, it was such a double crossing doublecross that I even hate to think back that far.

I was a member of the International Seamen's Union of America, and we went on a strike May 1st, 1921, because we would not



*Peter John Dirks.*

stand for a cut in wages, and lose our working conditions . . . .

The lawyers made a trade with the county attorney, (that's what the Chamber of Commerce calls them) and we did not stand trial, in so doing the lawyers could save the state of Maine \$50,000, with the result that we all took a ride to the states prison, because we were asking for decent wages, and fair working conditions . . . .

Comrade Fallon was first offered 12 to 17 years, and I was offered 10 to 15 years, which we both refused, then they cut Fallon to 10 years, and he still refused, and the state of Maine lawyers came back again with 3½ to 7 years for Fallon, and Comrade Dirks, myself, received instead of 1 to 2 years I was handed 5 to 7 years. Comrade Thomas Harty had his sentence raised from 5 to 10, to read 7 to 11 years. One comrade was stricken blind and was paralyzed two weeks after coming to prison, and laid in a pig pen of a hospital 3 full years, and when his time was up, he was thrown into the poor house . . . .

Dear comrades, my five years are nearly served and I am hoping to get out on parole in June. I am not complaining of my time, it is just the way that the grand working man outfit treated its members. The Chamber of Commerce were invited to the Court House to hear and see the workers sent to prison. My wife and child in Holland were without bread.

Dear comrades, you may think my letter radical, but this is only an outline of what took place. I have no friends in this country, and I am paid the sum of 25 cents per month for my prison labor, so you can guess how much I will go out with in my pockets after serving five years for standing loyal with my fellow comrades, but, my spirits are still good, and in my heart I would do the same thing over again. I have learned the English language, and I have learned plenty about American laws, and who and what it is that controls them.

Comrades, if my letter is not too long I would like to see it published in the Defender.

There is a warrant for my deportation awaiting me upon my release from here.

Well, dear comrade, I will close my long letter hoping this finds you and all comrades enjoying the best of health, and still defending some poor worker that has the grit to rebel, and demand an even break, even if he is in prison.

With hearty regards to all I. L. D. comrades, and my utmost wishes to those behind the bars that they may be out in the fresh air once more.

I remain fraternally yours,  
Peter John Dirks.

## A San Quentin I. W. W.

San Quentin, Calif.  
June 3, 1926.

James P. Cannon,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Friend:

I received the \$3.00 birthday present from the Bulgarian Progressive Club. Please inform them that I appreciate the spirit in which it was contributed, and oblige,

Yours for industrial freedom,  
A. E. Anderson.

## From Danny Fallon

Maine State Prison  
Thomaston, Maine, May 27th, 1926.

Mr. James P. Cannon,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Friend and Comrades:

Your welcome letter of the 24th inst., received with enclosed check, for which we send our hearty thanks for the spirit in which it is sent. My Comrade Dirks wrote you a few days ago about our trial and the "Justice" of the sentences given us in Portland, Maine, in 1921.

I am serving seven years for refusing to tell on a fellow comrade, and the International Seamen's Union has ditched us just like snakes in the grass after we came to prison. I am here behind bars of steel and walls of stone, and if I have prevented some fellow comrade from working for slave wages I am more than doubly repaid for my sacrifice . . . .

I was forced to work in the woodshop on entering the prison, and I had never seen



Danny Fallon.

the inside of a shop before in my life. I asked to be changed on account of stomach trouble, but being a so-called kicker and a radical I was refused, with the result that I was badly crippled and lost the first and second fingers on my left hand, and had the third one mangled, this was due to the state's lack of placing a guard in front of the machine that I was working on, bearing in mind that there is a law in this state to the effect that all machines must be equipped with safety devices. I came into this institution an able-bodied man, but alas I will leave here a cripple for life. The prison commissioners have told me more than once that I was entitled to compensation, but, try and get it, and you know the old saying that two big dogs never fight, they only growl at each other.

When I was committed to this institution they asked me what kind of work I did on the outside. I told them that I was a marine fireman, so they undertook to make a harness maker out of me, while working on this job I had plenty of time to do some thinking, with the result that they took me out of the harness shop, and tried to make a wheelwright out of me, from there I was

placed in the paint shop, then in turn tried out on the wood pile as a wood chopper, from that to a stationery fireman, then a waiter, in fact they tried to make me a jack of all trades and master of none. At present I am going out to work on the road with the road builders, and let me tell you that not in all the shops that I worked was I ever approached by a shop committee and asked to show my union card. Ha, ha, because union cards do not count in prison, it is your number that does.

In prisons they give out bibles and prayer books to read but comrades I get the joy of life reading the "Defender" it is truth, while the other leaflets are pretty fairy tales for little children. I read where B. Vanzetti is facing the chair, and still shouts out to all comrades that he, Vanzetti, will die as he lived "a radical." That is man's courage and I am sorry that there is not a million others with the same spirit. To die for a principle in my estimation is an "honor," and not a disgrace as the public press would like you to believe.

Peter J. Dirks, my comrade, is to be deported out of this country, because if they were all like Dirks, why the world would be a workingman's country. We enjoyed reading "Big Bill Haywood's" message. Though far away, his spirit is still with the workers. Well, dear fellow comrades, my idea of "Happiness" would be to see a general strike in this country, and if the American Federation of Labor had done its duty at the same time as the English trade unions done, the demands made would have been granted inside of eight hours. The English miners were sold out by those finks they call the "nobility." A king is a joker to me, and not fit to command people to say "Long Live the King."

Well dear comrades, I just thought that I would write you a few lines expressing to you my views on prison and labor. I read where the mill owners have refused to even meet a committee of workers to settle the dispute. So, comrades and loyal friends, I will close my letter by wishing you success and happiness, and best regards to all workers and comrades who are serving time.

Fraternally yours,  
Danny Fallon,  
Box A, Thomaston, Me.

## A Texas Fighter

State Farm Hobby, Texas.  
June 1st, 1926.

International Labor Defense,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrades:

In answer to yours of the 24th of May, I manifest to you all, that with great desperation I make efforts to write you all these letters for not know the language very good. So I ask you all to be excused unto yours consideration, that have our souls.

And next I pass with my frankness that I use to express myself. Seeing in your letter and the parts that compose it that you all wish to know something about my concept that I form myself to the movements you all talking with the beautiful ideals that in not very far day will unite all the humanity that exists over the earth. I only hope so that hour will come. I ask you all only two things, first, not to have



*Danny Fallon.*

warmness of head for little causes, which ones can be easy carried to an exit of conformation. Second, to gather all the workers in our social bosom without distinction of colors, politics, or religious creeds, because at the end we all have suffered that horrible fraud of the system that governs.

These is what I ask you all with my heart. (tranquillo).

With respect to our works, I will say that from the penitentiary I not only think I see you all at the front, colocoated in a whirlwind of immense sacrifice, and that our wage will be to have our conscience satisfied, that we haven't done wrong with our duties.

Don't fail to tell all our companions of work, that the hour has come to be in solidarity, that is that we have to see the great necessities that is within our brotherhood that are at the front of our liberal presses. Only front to the furious enemy of three heads that is capital, government and religion. That we have to be alert covering those necessities with money of our own work, that if they do it this way, to live sure that it won't be necessary to enhand weapons, to demolish the common enemy. To make their possible efforts to cover the debts that weigh over our presses of propaganda and just this way we can go the march of our anarchist ideals, which has prepared the happiness of all the homes that populate the earth.

I for my part am content. I don't suffer at all, just to see the generous efforts that you all are making in welfare of all that we suffer by the storm developed by the tyranny of our enemies.

It has passed fourteen years that my companions and I are in prison, and it don't anguish me. I don't repent to have acted like a conscientious man. With the longing to finish 25 years, that the servers of capital sentenced me, and might be that in eight or ten months more will have the pleasure to come to mine to form the dike to hold the ones that have made themselves big with sacrifices of the ones that suffer.

I am closing this with a fraternal embrace to all.

For the cause of land and liberty.

Pedro Perales.

Are there any friends of labor prisoners in such circumstances that they can offer released prisoners, who are always weak, more or less sick and out of tune with the outside world a chance to recuperate and regain their poise for a month or two, spent as the guest of those who can give them a vacation with good food, air, rest and companionship before they again engage in the class struggle? If so, let the I. L. D. get their address. Remember, the time after release is often the most painful experience to prisoners.

## John Bruns

San Quentin, Calif.

July 3rd, 1926.

James P. Cannon, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade and Fellow Worker:

These few lines will advise you that I have received the birthday check for three dollars. I also send greetings and many thanks to the "Bulgarian Progressive Club" of Gary, Indiana, thru the I. L. D. for their thoughtful remembrance. With best wishes,

Yours for the good cause,

John Bruns, Box 40050, San Quentin, Cal.

## Birth Dates of Class War Prisoners for July

July 3rd. Leonardo Vasquez No. 37245, Brazoria County, Farm, Dewalt, Texas.

July 4th. Warren K. Billings, Folsom Prison, Repressa, Calif.

July 17th. Frank Bailey, No. 37647, San Quentin, Calif.

July 28th. Charles Cline, care Ferguson Farm, R. 1, Midway, Texas.

July 30th. William Minton, No. 38124, San Quentin, Calif.

July 30th. Joe Varela, No. 38133, San Quentin, Calif.



# BUILDING THE I.L.D.



By Rose Karsner

### THE PRISONERS PLEDGE FUND.

**F**IVE dollars a month sounds like a very small amount. But to the class-war prisoner who gets this monthly sum regularly from the I. L. D. it means much. It means a message from the outer world expressing class solidarity with him. A message of hope and courage. A reminder that the labor movement in which behalf he fought, and for which he is now being victimized, has not forgotten him. An indication that the workers are organizing themselves into a permanent power for the protection of their class against capitalist persecution and prosecution.

Letters from the men in prison, printed in the Labor Defender each month, express these sentiments. Some of them tell how our letters were the first word from the outside they had had in years. Others inform us that the \$5 check helps them give assistance to their family, or buy literature they are eager for, or get some personal services such as dental treatment, which has to be paid for in prison. Still others

have the \$5 monthly remittance banked, against the day of release when they will need a small sum to start life with all over again.

For example. Today a letter reached us from Eugene Barnett, one of the Centralia men at Walla Walla, which reads in part as follows: "Attached to this letter you will find the receipt for the \$5 relief you enclosed in your letter. I thank you and the good comrades in the struggle whose class consciousness and solidarity makes this relief possible. I was compelled to have some dental work done on two of my teeth this past month to avoid losing them. That cost me \$10, so you see a fellow can't very well get along without money even in the penitentiary."

The \$5 checks have been going from our General Fund. Now we must make an effort to raise this special fund so as to leave the general fund for legal expenses and agitation work such as the present campaign for Sacco and Vanzetti.

Each Branch of I. L. D. should take upon itself the duty of raising \$5 monthly for a

specific class-war prisoner, whose name and address will be sent by the National or Local office. A Prisoner's Relief Secretary should be elected whose responsibility it shall be to see that this \$5 is forwarded regularly, and that one letter a month is written to the man in their care. Members of the Branch shall be assigned to write the letter and the Prison Relief Secretary shall forward the letter to the National or Local office for transmitting to the prisoner.

Wherever possible, individual members shall take the responsibility of a \$5 monthly pledge in addition to the Branch as a whole. Each pledger, whether a Branch or an individual should also correspond with the specific prisoner they have undertaken to remit for.

In response to a circular which was sent out by the National Office to all Local secretaries giving a complete list of the class-war prisoners and asking for the adoption of one of them, Cleveland, Denver, Chicago, Canton and Perth Amboy responded immediately.



**VERONICA KOVACS**  
Sec'y I. L. D., Perth Amboy, N. J.

This work must be developed and intensified until the Prisoners' Pledge Fund grows so big that the \$5 monthly can be increased and money can also be sent by the National Office to more of the dependents. We should also be able to give each prisoner a check upon his release.

**BIRTHDAY GIFTS TO CLASS-WAR PRISONERS.**

Each month, the National Office issues a list of the birthdates of class-war prisoners, known to us. This list is sent to the labor press for publication and it also appears in each issue of The Labor Defender.

Last month, the Bulgarian Progressive Club of Gary, Indiana, sent us a check of \$27 to be distributed among the 9 class-war prisoners whose birthdates were announced.

- The following received \$3 each:  
Abraham Cisneros of Huntsville, Texas.
- A. E. Anderson of San Quentin penitentiary.
- William Joozdeff of San Quentin penitentiary.
- B. Johnson of San Quentin penitentiary.
- Bartolomeo Vanzetti of Dedham, Mass.
- John Burns of San Quentin.
- Thomas Harty of Thomaston, Me.
- Pedro Parales of Hobby, Texas.
- Jesus Gonzales of Dewalt, Texas.

Several have acknowledged receipt of this money and their letters will appear in the Voices from Prison department. Today the following letter came from John Bruns, at San Quentin, California: "These few lines will advise you that I have received the birthday check of three dollars. I also send greetings and many thanks to the Bulgarian Progressive Club of Gary, Indiana, thru the I. L. D. for their thoughtful remembrance."

**FROM LOCAL I. L. D. SECRETARIES.**

**H. Perkon, Erie, Pa.**—English Branch is arranging a card party to raise defense funds. Enclosed find check.

**Veronica Kovacs, Perth Amboy, N. J.**—I received your letter. I immediately called a meeting of our Executive Committee and we decided to hold a Sacco-Vanzetti mass protest meeting on June 6th. We also decided to pledge \$5 toward the Prisoners' Pledge Fund, but which prisoner we will decide later. A number of large factories are on strike in Perth Amboy. One thousand copper workers were out for a few

days for an increase of 10c. The workers of this plant picketed a group of other copper plants of which the workers got an increase of 5c without going out on strike.

**Carl Hacker, Cleveland.**—Have sent a strong appeal to all our branches on the question of adopting a class-war prisoner. It went over good with the result that the West Side English Branch will be ready to forward the monthly \$5 beginning with July. I have assigned them Dominick Venturato. Expect to have a fairly good remittance to make as a result of the circulation of the Passaic defense coupons about the first of next week.

**James A. Ayres, Denver.**—In regard to your communication about writing to class war prisoners and raising \$5 per month for one, the local executive committee selected R. W. Minton at San Quentin. A member of the executive was appointed to look after the matter.

**Carl Guillod, Canton, Ohio.**—Our regular meeting was very well attended. After the business hour the meeting was turned over to the entertaining committee and they presented a very nice program. A lunch was served. A collection was taken to meet our bills and \$33.90 fell into the hat.

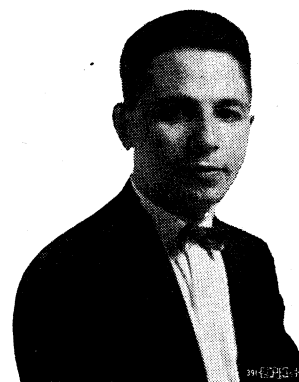
**Joe Kobylak, Jr., Neffs, Ohio.**—Enclosed find \$23.84 for the I. L. D. This money was collected on May Day celebration, donated from the miners in order that they may help their brothers that are in the frame-up charge in Zeigler. We are all members of the U. M. W. A. We will do everything possible in order to see our Zeigler brothers free.

**Sam Pobersky, Duluth, Minn.**—The Duluth I. L. D. is arranging a picnic and mass meeting on the 13th of June and we want to know if you can send us a speaker.

**Eli Misterovich, South Bend, Ind.**—Enclosed find \$12.85 from the collection taken at a meeting which was arranged with the assistance of the Italian workers under auspices of I. L. D. Arturo Giovannitti was the speaker. Please inform the Italian chamber of labor that you have received this amount.

**Sarah J. Linn, Birmingham, Ala.**—Please send me a bunch of petition blanks, some Sacco-Vanzetti leaflets and a few application blanks for the I. L. D.

**John S. Reed, Rochester, Minn.**—The Rochester I. L. D. held a protest meeting and voted to wire Governor Fuller of Massachusetts to take action in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. A committee was appointed to meet with the Rochester Trades and Labor Assembly and all local unions.



**ARTHUR Z. ARNOLD**  
Sec'y I. L. D., Washington, D. C.

**SACCO-VANZETTI PROTEST MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.**

The following cities have arranged for Sacco-Vanzetti conferences, consisting of delegates from local trade unions, fraternal and other workers' organizations.

Lawrence, Mass., Cleveland, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Jamestown, N. Y., Denver, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Passaic, Grand Rapids, and Eastern Ohio.

Stirring Sacco-Vanzetti mass protest meetings have been held in the following cities:

Philadelphia, with Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Arturo Giovannitti, E. Soffenti and Norman Tallentire as the speakers.

Washington, D. C., with Robert W. Dunn and John S. Hornbach.

Baltimore, with Robert W. Dunn and John S. Hornbach.

Detroit, with Frank Martel, Jacob Margolis and C. E. Ruthenberg.

Cleveland, with Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, James P. Cannon, Albert Coyle and Carl Hacker.

Minneapolis, Robert Morss Lovett, William Mahoney, A. Stockwell and William F. Dunne.

St. Paul, William Mahoney and William F. Dunne.

San Francisco, Robert Whitaker.

Los Angeles, Robert Whitaker and James Fisher.

Seattle, John C. Kennedy, Carl Brannin, "Mother" Titus, James Duncan, George Vanderveer, C. B. Ellis and Jean Stovel.

Portland, John C. Kennedy.

Kansas City, James P. Cannon.

Pittsburgh, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, William J. Van Essen and James P. Cannon.

St. Louis, James P. Cannon.

Rochester, Minn., Yonkers, N. Y., Perth Amboy, N. J., Newark, Lawrence, and Buffalo also held protest meetings.

**ANNOUNCEMENT.**

At the last meeting of the National Executive Committee it was decided that James P. Cannon shall make an organization tour from coast to coast.

In each city Comrade Cannon will spend two or three days, meeting with the I. L. D. membership and holding special conferences with branch and local secretaries.

**Monthly Contributions to the Prisoners' Pledge Fund**

- 1—Estelle Tarkoff, Boulder, Colo.
- 2—Mrs. A. Kratoff, Norwalk, Conn.
- 3—F. Mandler, Cincinnati.
- 4—A. W. Routhier, Detroit.
- 5—Eugene Barnett Branch, Chicago.
- 6—A. E. Anderson Branch, Grand Rapids.
- 7—Joseph Wilson, Long Beach, Wash.
- 8—Albert Gerling, Madrid, Iowa.
- 9—Anna Hammer, Rosindale, Mass.
- 10—West Side Branch, Cleveland.
- 11—Local Denver, Colo.
- 12—Local Perth Amboy, N. J.
- 13—Local Canton, Ohio

NOTE: Checks go forward to the class-war prisoners from the National Office on the 22nd of each month.



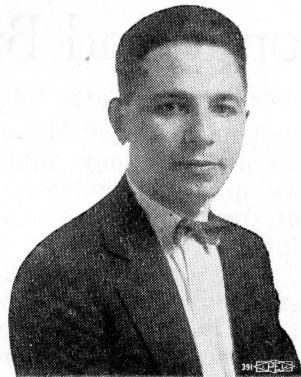
**VERONICA KOVACS**  
*Sec'y I. L. D., Perth Amboy, N. J.*

This work must be developed and intensified until the Prisoners' Pledge Fund

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**James A. Ayres, Denver.**—In regard to your communication about writing to class



**ARTHUR Z. ARNOLD**  
*Sec'y I. L. D., Washington, D. C.*

# Mooney and Billings: 10 Years in Hell

(Continued from page 110)

swore that he had seen Mooney and Billings, Mrs. Mooney and Israel Weinberg, and an unidentified man arrive at the scene of the explosion in Weinberg's automobile at two o'clock, place a suitcase at the point of the explosion and then drive away in the same car. His testimony, also, was adjusted to the earlier period of time.

Mooney was convicted of murder in the first degree and condemned to be "hanged by the neck until dead."

Mooney would have been hanged, and after him would likely have followed Mrs. Mooney, Weinberg and Nolan—if the labor movement of the world had not now taken a hand as never before. The February Russian revolution had occurred and throughout all of Russia the name of Tom Mooney was on the lips of every working man and woman. A monster demonstration of workers in Leningrad (then Petrograd) put the question up to the American ambassador in Petrograd as to whether "Tom Mūni" was to be hanged. Because of the war situation, President Woodrow Wilson intervened and the death sentence of Mooney was commuted to—life imprisonment!

So they "got" Tom Mooney and Warren Billings. Since that time many things have happened. Before Wilson's intervention the defense attorneys had secured through the head of the labor movement on a tip given by a bell-boy in a San Francisco hotel, conclusive evidence that the "cattle man from Oregon" was a simple perjurer with a criminal rec-

ord. The now famous letters written by Frank C. Oxman to Ed Rigall offering a sum of money to Rigall for perjured testimony are known to all of the American labor movement. The confession of Estelle Smith, the prostitute witness of the dental office, the confession of her mother and the confession of John McDonald, that their testimony was false and given under inducement of a promise of money reward—all of this is commonplace history to the working class of the world.

But the years roll on, and Mooney and Billings remain in the penitentiary at San Quentin and Folsom, California. No one seriously claims any more that either of them are guilty of murder, but only that they fought the Chamber of Commerce open shop drive. There are only two arguments: one, that Mooney is a bad fellow who ought to be in jail anyhow for the trouble that he made in the struggle between labor and capital in California; the other is that there is no legal way to get Mooney and Billings out, because "the court did not err" in any technical way, and "cannot take legal cognizance" of the confessions of the witnesses made after the legal record was closed.

Some think that the labor movement has expended its strength in the case, and that it can do no more; this is the view of persons to whom legal formalities delineate the framework of life.

But something can be done. Only a slave-psychology can induce a con-

trary view. If these men were members of the upper class, with a powerful sentiment of the upper class behind them, they would be freed. Being members, and representative members of the working class—being men of militant record in the labor movement—these men are rotting their lives away and will be released only if a powerful organized sentiment of the working class is put into motion on their behalf. There is no use in mincing words. The labor movement has disgracefully laid down on the Mooney case. A slave-psychology has been allowed to prevail: The mass-will of the employing class has been to destroy the labor-leader, Mooney; the mass-will of working class, the labor movement, has given way to the mass-will of the employing class for making away with this labor man, Mooney. It is these things, and not the formal mummeries of courts which decide such questions.

Are Mooney and Billings to remain to the end of their lives in prison?

I maintain that the answer to this question is solely and entirely within the power of the labor movement, entirely a question of the will and initiative of the labor movement. Will the labor movement mobilize its ranks, with pride and confidence, for a concerted, organized pressure for the release of Mooney and Billings?—that is the sole question.

The tenth anniversary of the imprisonment of Mooney and Billings, July 27, 1926, I think should be made the occasion for a world-wide demonstration of the entire labor movement of all countries for the liberation of Tom Mooney and Warren Billings.

## IN OTHER LANDS

Poland  
Roumania  
France

### FROM THE HELL OF POLISH PRISONS

The bourgeois member of the Polish parliament, Dr. Insler, writes in one of the last issues of "Nasz Przegląd" details of the conditions in the Polish prisons which are so horrible that it seems incredible that the Sejm by its vote did not take measures in connection with the work of the investigation commission. From the abundance of the facts revealed by the commission, Dr. Insler describes particularly the situation in the prison of the Holy Cross. This prison has, according to the statement of Dr. Insler, nothing in common with its holy name, but is actually an institution of murder. Dr. Insler writes:

"In the course of one year there, 65 new prisoners were accommodated, and in the same time 58 died. The picture of the prison hospital will pursue everybody, who, like our commission, was forced to look at it, like a horrible dream. Along the stone walls of the old convent building the water pours down in streams. Every member of the commission will never forget the impression received in the prison. In the cells the prisoners sank on their knees and asked for mercy with tears in their eyes. The majority of the Sejm, however, took the attitude that in Poland such prisons are necessary. The motion for the abolition of this prison was rejected. I dare to state

that death sentences would be more humane than such treatment."

Thus does even a bourgeois member of parliament describe the fate of hundreds of workers in Poland today.

### THE SENTENCE IN THE GALATZ "CONSPIRACY" TRIAL.

The court martial of Kishinev has arrived at the following sentence in the trial against the Communists which lasted for weeks and was repeatedly postponed.

Thirty-five of the accused were sentenced to imprisonment and 21 acquitted. Of the 35, 5 were sentenced to 5 years, one to three



years, two to two years, 21 to one year, one to eight months, five to six months imprisonment each. All accused had to pay a fine of 2,000 lei each.

Thus a new chapter has ended in the history of the Roumanian class justice. In the Kishinev Communist trial a total sentence of 56 years of imprisonment was passed against people who were mostly extremely young and are not guilty of anything but their Communist conviction.

The military prosecution mentioned for instance as one of the accusations against one of the defendants that he had contributed to the paper "Facla," another that he had read the magazine "Cuvantal liber." One must know that both publications are freely issued and sold in Roumania. Some of the accused had made confessions in the prisons of the Siguranza under the pressure of maltreatment, but all of them denied that what they had said was true. They showed before the court the traces of the maltreatment on their bodies.

But this did not make any impression on the court, neither did the youth of the accused—they are mostly still boys. Of no effect were also the appeals from abroad, which had been alarmed by the trial and demanded human treatment of the accused in memorandums and manifestations.

The sentence was a slap in the face for the international working class. It is still more senseless and brutal than that against the Tartar Bunar peasants where there were at least some facts, if even artificially constructed. The Kishinev military court, however, did not need facts. The conviction was not directed against actions, but only against the revolutionary convictions of the accused.

THE SENTENCE IN THE TRIAL  
AGAINST BERNARDON AND  
CLERC

Sentence has been passed in the trial against the two Communists, Bernardon and Clerc. Bernardon was acquitted and Clerc received three years imprisonment.

This means that the accusation in this monstrous trial has pitifully collapsed. The trial was the result of a disturbance which had been carefully prepared by fascists in their struggle against the Communists. It took place in April last year. The heavily armed fascists attacked Communists who left a meeting of the fascists. The Communists defended themselves and four fascists were killed. Two workers, Clerc and Bernardon, were arrested and left for one

year in prison. The sentence which was passed now constitutes a defeat of the prosecutor who openly defended the fascists. Both comrades had been accused for intended murder against several persons. The defense proved before the court that the accused were attacked by fascists and that they had a right to defend themselves.

A great number of witnesses marched up from the fascists who, well instructed by their leader, Taittinger, denied the attack, till one of them spoilt this nice plan by admitting openly that fascist guards had been concentrated before the hall and that he himself was the commander of one of the troops.

The witnesses of the defense, many of whom belonged to the petty bourgeoisie, said unanimously that the fascists had arrived in ordered ranks and had provoked the trouble. The accused had been arbitrarily arrested from among the masses and it could not even be proved that they had fired the shots. Henri Barbusse, who appeared as a witness of the defence, described the character of fascism and declared that fascism was the factor responsible for the troubles that had taken place. Despite all these facts the court arrived at the above mentioned sentence in order to cover its defeat.

CASH RECEIPTS FOR APRIL, 1926.

12817 Chicago Local	1.00
12818 B. Dobref, Massillon, Ohio	1.00
12819 Fodor Andrioff, Massillon, Ohio	1.00
12820 Eva Tokkar, Local Warren, Ohio	8.90
12821 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	6.00
12822 S. S. Osasto, Local Newberry, Mich.	2.45
12823 A. E. Oddie, Local Brockton, Mass.	7.20
12824 K. S. Ramayya, Ithaca, N. Y.	5.00
12825 J. S. Radison, Christopher, Ill.	.60
12826 A. Z. Arnold, Washington, D. C.	1.00
12827 Paul Midela, Local Verona, Pa.	1.05
12828 A. N. Routhier, Detroit, Mich.	5.00
12829 M. Krassic, So. Slav Section	200.00
12830 S. Norwais Bakersfield, Cal.	25.00
12831 Albert Gerling, Madrid, Iowa	1.50
12832 P. R. Matkowski, Mason City, Ia.	1.00
12833 E. Pekman, Seattle, Wash.	2.25
12834 Mrs. Chas. B. Merrick, Methuen, Mass.	1.00
12835 Arthur Parent, Detroit, Mich.	1.00
12836 Robert Zelms, Local Boston, Mass.	20.00
12837 Carl Hacker, Local Cleveland, Ohio	281.00
12838 Louis Simolunas, Local Binghampton, N. Y.	30.60
12839 F. L. Krasick, Local Denver, Colo.	6.25
12840 M. Yeager, Pittsburgh, Penna.	6.60
12841 Karl J. Malmstrom, Moline, Ill.	.10
12842 S. J. Liutkus, Local Elizabeth, N. J.	4.00
12843 A. M. Katz, Local Detroit, Mich.	377.00
12844 David Coutts, Local Omaha, Nebr.	7.35
12845 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	3.00
12846 A. Z. Arnold, Washington, D. C.	1.00
12847 L. Mitseff, Local Portland, Ore.	18.50
12848 Z. S. Werlincus, McKees Rocks, Pa.	1.00
12849 Alfred Knutson, Local Fargo, N. D.	1.00
12850 Esther Kipris, San Francisco, Cal.	3.00
12851 Frank Blackstone, Reno Nevada	.76
12852 James Jokela, Local Brantwood Wis.	2.40
12853 W. Seelert, Local San Francisco, Cal.	14.50
12854 Hilda Kantola, Local Rochester, N. Y.	1.20
12855 S. Wesotowska, Chelsea, Mass.	1.50
12856 Sam Pobersky, Local Duluth, Minn.	4.75
12857 Mary Nurmi, Local Conneaut, Ohio	14.25
12858 Anna Hammer, Roslindale, Mass.	1.00
12859 Estella Tarkoff, Boulder, Calif.	5.00
12860 Arturo Pettinan, New London, Conn.	17.54
12861 Geo. Young, Local Valier, Ill.	.25
12862 G. Maurer, Local Chicago	1.00
12863 C. Berger, Local Buffalo, N. Y.	73.75
12864 J. Lyman, Philadelphia, Pa.	9.00
12865 Ferdinand Rukavina, Local Akron, Ohio	10.00
12866 Joseph Schreiner, Freedom, Pa.	1.00
12867 Robert Zelms, Local Boston, Mass.	26.00
12868 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	6.80
12869 Paul A. Bucha, Hammond, Ind.	2.85
12870 Paul A. Bucha, Hammond, Ind.	1.80
12871 E. Hugo Oehler, Kansas City, Mo.	.75

12872 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	6.00
12873 James Jokela, Local Brantwood, Wis.	1.45
12874 Robert Zelms, Local Boston, Mass.	22.50
12875 S. Belin, Local Rochester, N. Y.	10.50
12876 M. Molnar, Los Angeles, Cal.	1.90
12877 Mania Bender, Local Columbus, O.	10.00
12878 Walter Ogar, Local E. St. Louis, Ill.	3.15
12879 Robert Larson, Dagmar, Mont.	.70
12880 Local Pittsburgh	15.80
12881 Local Cleveland	20.00
12882 Local Jamestown, N. Y.	10.00
12883 Local Buffalo, N. Y.	10.00
12884 Local Erie, Pa.	21.00
12885 Sidney Strong, Seattle, Wash.	10.00
12886 Johnnie Cozier, Valleys, Cal.	5.00
12887 Local Washington, D. C.	15.00
12888 John Sabotka, Local Salem, Ohio	3.30
12889 John Sabotka, Salem, Ohio	11.75
12890 Arthur Fichchel, Local Troy, N. Y.	1.10
12891 Joseph Walla, Local So. Brownsville, Pa.	3.50
12892 Einer Ring, Local Mulberry Kans.	8.00
12893 J. Lyman, Local Philadelphia, Pa.	28.00
12894 J. Lyman, Local Philadelphia, Pa.	75.00
12895 Tom Ray, Local McDonald, Pa.	2.55
12896 Wm. Chapak, Chicago, Ill.	2.00
12897 Sophia Wakkure, Olympia, Wash.	1.00
12898 J. K. Chaplik, Local Berkeley, Cal.	1.75
12899 A. Kerr, Eureka, Cal.	1.60
13000 A. M. Katz, Local Detroit, Mich.	152.00
13001 Local Columbus, Ohio	25.00
13002 M. Yeager, Local Pittsburgh, Pa.	23.28
13003 Mrs. Minnie Newcombe, Local Arden, Del.	10.30
13004 Steve Paich, Local Triadelphia, W. Va.	2.50
13005 Wallace Metcalfe, Local Youngstown, Ohio	17.00
13006 John Baxa, Bellaire, Ohio	20.00
13007 Local Chicago	7.60
13008 V. Kentrus	3.00
13009 Paul A. Bucha, Hammond, Ind.	11.95
13010 Eli Mistorovich, Local So. Bend, Ind.	10.00
13011 William Schroeder, Local Frankfort Heights, Ill.	7.00
13012 S. F. Dziengielewski, Peckville, Pa.	2.00
13013 Carl Hacker, Cleveland, O.	1.00
13014 Joseph Klineck, Binghampton N. Y.	4.50
13015 A. M. Algeo, Galveston, Tex.	2.00
13016 A. J. Kreckas, Local Grand Rapids, Mich.	31.25
13017 Frank Ulevich, Toledo, O.	1.40
13018 Joseph Kertsey, Secy. Workmen's Sick Benefit & Educ. Fed. New York, N. Y.	96.48
13019 A. Oddie, Brockton, Mass.	3.00
13020 J. M. Smith, Avon, Conn.	5.00
13021 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	5.00
13022 Cora Meyer, Local Milwaukee, Wisc.	30.50

13023 C. Meyer, Milwaukee, Wisc.	31.50
13024 Carl Hacker, Cleveland, Ohio	5.60
13025 Anna Michalek, Cicero, Ill.	1.00
13026 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	15.00
13027 R. Stankevich, Seaside, Ore.	1.00
13028 Geo. A. Ahse, Somerville, Mass.	.50
13029 Local Toledo, O.	10.00
13030 Local Boston, Mass.	241.00
13031 A. Kraus, Local Utica, N. Y.	4.25
13032 C. A. Tobey, Local Oakland, Cal.	4.00
13033 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	2.00
13034 Carl Hacker, Cleveland, O.	2.00
13035 J. Soric, Gary, Ind.	6.50
13036 Walter Seelert, Local San Francisco, Cal.	86.75
13037 Carl Hacker, Local Cleveland, Ohio	42.00
13038 E. Pekman, Seattle, Wash.	1.00
13039 A. Z. Arnold, Washington, D. C.	1.00
13040 R. Zelms, Boston, Mass.	2.00
13041 Phila Workingmen's Sing Soc., Philadelphia, Pa.	35.00
13042 Mania Reiss, Los Angeles, Cal.	4.60
13043 Mania Reiss, Local Los Angeles, Cal.	100.00
13044 E. Pekman, Seattle, Wash.	2.00
13045 C. Skolare, Local Pittsburgh, Pa.	19.30
13046 J. A. Lindquist, Local Bothell, Wash.	6.00
13047 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	3.00
13048 Local Chicago	1.00
13049 Local Chicago	2.00
13050 R. Tourin, New York, N. Y. Loan	190.00
13051 A. Greenberg, New York, N. Y., Loan	200.00
13052 Carl Hacker, Cleveland, Ohio	3.00
13053 Jacob C. Robinson, Detroit, Mich.	.60
13054 Anonymous, Agnew, Cal.	3.00
13055 Jack Lettich, Royal Oak, Mich.	2.50
13056 Dee Harrison, Local Kansas City, Kans.	3.50
13057 Jean Stovel, Local Seattle, Wash.	10.00
13058 Veronica Kovacs, Local Perth Amboy, N. J.	17.35
13059 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	7.60
13060 M. Siennicki, Local Elm Grove, W. Va.	9.40
13061 Local Chicago	3.00
13062 Mrs. E. Kalajian, Chelsea, Mass.	1.00
13063 E. Peperides, Detroit, Mich.	1.00
13064 Geo. Stenbuns, Local Herman, Mich.	7.70
13065 Local New York	1,000.00
13066 P. P. Boneff, Secy. Bulgarian Br. I. L. D., Detroit, Mich.	31.00
13067 Robert Zelms, Boston, Mass.	4.00
13068 John Heinanen, Local Reedley, Cal.	2.10
13069 Frank Krasick, Local Denver, Col.	15.00
13070 Hago H. Samuelian, Pittsfield, Mass.	1.26
13071 Local Chicago	3.00

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