

# LABOR DEFENDER

APRIL 1927

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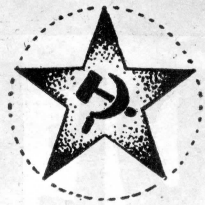
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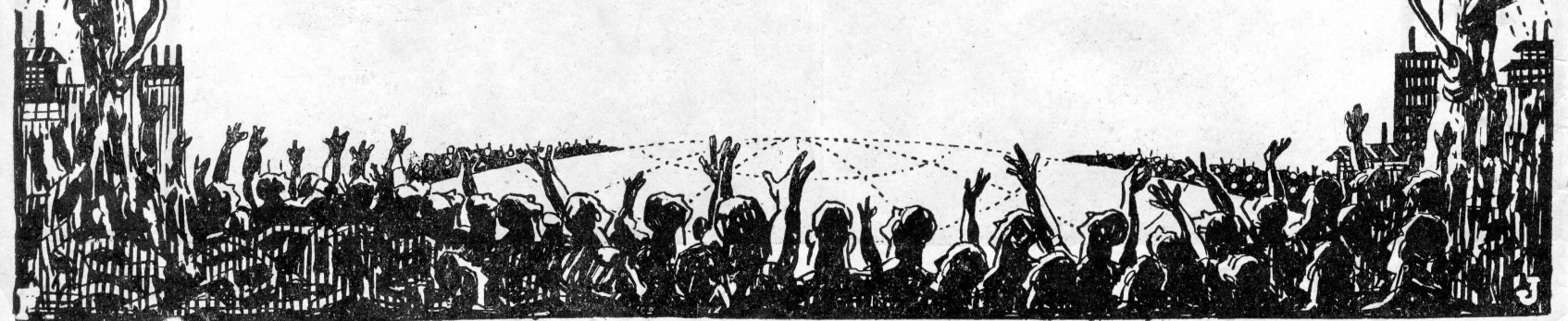


C. E. RUTHENBERG





*Charles Emil Ruthenberg*



# Ruthenberg Under Fire

By T. J. O'Flaherty.

**W**HEN death claimed the militant working class fighter, C. E. Ruthenberg, a Michigan penitentiary was cheated of a victim, the American labor movement lost an outstanding leader and the International Labor Defense of one of its staunchest supporters.

Only a few months ago the Labor Defense was sadly obliged to record the death of Eugene V. Debs, an outstanding rebel and also a member of the National Committee of the I. L. D. The loss of two such men within a few short months is a severe blow to the working class movement in the United States.

Ruthenberg died on March 2, after being operated on for an acute attack of appendicitis which developed into peritonitis. He fought against the implacable onslaught of death as valiantly as he did against the capitalist system whose mortal foe he was.

Ruthenberg was General Secretary of the Workers (Communist) Party, a position held by him since the party was organized in 1921. Since 1909 until the time of his death this man, a son of a Cleveland longshoreman, devoted his entire time to the revolutionary movement, always in the front of the fight, never sparing himself.

Since 1917 Ruthenberg was under constant indictment and at the time of his death he was awaiting a decision of the United States supreme court on his appeal from the verdict of a Berrien County jury which found him guilty of an alleged violation of the criminal syndicalism law of that state arising out of the famous raid on the Communist convention in Bridgeman in August, 1922.

This case attracted nation-wide attention and aroused the entire labor movement against the authors of the raid, the notorious Harry M. Daugherty, grafting attorney general and anti-labor injunctionist and the gang of capitalist servants that served Wall Street at that time, a gang that was followed by servants equally loyal and equally odoriferous in the nostrils of the working class.

My association with Comrade Ruthenberg during the Bridgeman raid, the time he spent in Berrien County jail with us and afterwards during his trial gave his associates an insight into a side of his character that those less intimate with him might not know. Beneath Ruthenberg's seemingly cold exterior there was a heart as warm as ever throbbed in a human breast. And those who had the pleasure of working with him not only will feel the

great gap left in the revolutionary ranks by his death but their sense of personal loss will be keen.

I remember vividly that beautiful morning in August as we lay on the grass or in the little canvas tents awaiting a train to take us to Chicago. But instead of a train a small fleet of automobiles arrived and gathered us into the county jail. Ruthenberg sat on the grass as the detectives rushed hither and thither nervously with drawn revolvers, cursing and using profane language. I can still see that calm face with the twinkling eyes and the contemptuous curling lip as he gazed on the capitalist mercenaries.

The small-town petty-bourgeois babbits of St. Joseph, Michigan, expected to witness the arrival of a collection of wild men who would look more at home in a zoo than in a county jail. But after a few visits to the local hoosegow they changed their opinions though unfortunately the jury that brought in a verdict of "guilty" in the Ruthenberg trial did not consider the most ferocious of jungle beasts more dangerous to their liberties than the presence of men who would overthrow the capitalist system.

Ruthenberg, as the leader of the arrested men was singled out for special treatment by the jailers. He was



*Manacled Communist prisoners being marched thru streets of Benton Harbor, Michigan. Ruthenberg in front, shackled to Charles Krumbein.*





*Manacled Communist prisoners being marched thru streets of Benton Harbor, Michigan. Ruthenberg in front, shackled to Charles Krumbein.*



not allowed to have the pleasure of associating with his comrade on the more agreeable upper floor of the jail. The department of justice agents feared that his advice would be helpful to us and that his companionship would encourage us. They took him down stairs to one of the vilest detention pens I ever saw. When our lawyer visited the jail to consult with the prisoners we had an opportunity to see Comrade Ruthenberg for a few minutes on his way to the visiting room. He was always smiling and his manner was contagious.

This was the real Ruthenberg, thinking of the movement rather than of his own comfort, thinking of his comrades. What a tower of strength he was to us. In court, chained to another pris-

oner he arose and made the customary plea. He towered over the capitalist hacks like a giant. Their moral superior, the capitalist flunkies realized their own smallness.

Ruthenberg was indicted and convicted. His testimony on the witness stand at the Berrien County contributed a glorious page in the history of the class struggle in America. As the spokesman for the working class movement Ruthenberg carried himself gallantly. We who were very close to him were proud of the way he handled himself on the witness stand and even his most bitter foes outside the movement were forced to admit that here was a man among men, a man who knew no fear, a man who was ready to lay his great ability at the

feet of the labor movement and lay down his life on the altar of working class emancipation.

C. E. Ruthenberg is gone from our midst. He died in the prime of life. At the moment when his experience and ability were needed most, when the working class movement could least spare him. It is the fortune of war and though the revolutionary workers mourn his loss, they and the movement he helped to fashion with them will grow in power until the robber system that he fought so strenuously during the greater part of his adult life will sink beneath the weight of its iniquity and from the mighty blows of a working class in revolt and until the Republic of Labor is erected on its ruins.

## Maintain American Tradition of Political Asylum.

By Enea Sormenti.

**T**HE International Labor Defense, the great organization for working class defense in the United States, is carrying on a national campaign to force, by means of an intense mass agitation, the Federal government not to spot with shame one of the best traditions of this people: the recognition of the right of asylum for the political refugees.

The perspective for the duration of this fight is certainly not a most flord one. It will last a long time because the enemy to be defeated is very strong and tenacious. This enemy is not only Italian fascism which is quite anxious to murder its new victims, but also the capitalist regime of this country, which is deaf and blind to sentiment, the great American banker that has transformed Italy into a colony of Wall Street with the complicity of Benito Mussolini and the Italian bourgeoisie.

It is the Federal government with its policy of deportation that has aided Mussolini to plant new crosses in the cemeteries of Italy. If this capitalist regime had not financed with loans and investments the government of Mussolini, at this time the most infamous misrule that history has ever recorded would have fallen and the remembrance would be a sad one in the hearts of the Italian masses.

But it is J. P. Morgan, the chief fascist of Italy who is hated throughout the beautiful peninsula because he has aided the black shirted monsters to satisfy their sadistic desires. Mr. Davis, the Secretary of the Department of Labor taking advantage of the restrictive immigration laws has covered with the mark of infamy the most noble tradition of this country.

Those who know, can only have an idea of the fate reserved for those are deported to the Land of Death. Some of these refugees have already been arrested and deported. Their mothers still ask what has happened to them. They have been swallowed in the deepest of mystery. They have perhaps been murdered on the ship before the arrival or thrown to rot in some jail to die of hunger and torture.

I remember the period in which the fascist beast systematically guarded by the militia of a democratic regime, destroyed, devastated, demolished and burned the great edifice of the working class. Yes, workers were dying; they were dying without the possibility of defending themselves, leaving their families under most horrible persecution. But today the situation is more terrible. One who goes to Italy to work in the factories and live the daily life of the worker can only understand it.

While France is guaranteeing the right of political asylum and other nations are doing likewise despite the stupid threats of Mussolini, America, the republic of Washington and Lincoln, in addition to supplying Italy with money, also supplies it with victims. And how? Mr. Davis, the secretary of the Department of Labor knows better than we. He does not care to see that the traditions of this country are respected, but he defends the interests of the capitalists. Mr. Davis is the one whose duty it is to put in the hands of Mussolini the political refugees and he does it very complacently. The fascists continually denounce the refugees. The Department of Labor arrests and deports them. The deportees are killed and Mussolini

compares his regime with the American by radio.

This shame cannot last. It is the people of this country who must put a stop to this legalized murder. The refugees want neither pity nor mercy. They are fighting men who have fought and know how to die. But they have a right to know once for all time whether or not they can remain in America. If not, the government of this country should put the statue of Liberty in its archives of antiquity and substitute it with a new symbol of the American Empire: An Electric Chair crossed with a littoral bundle of fascism.

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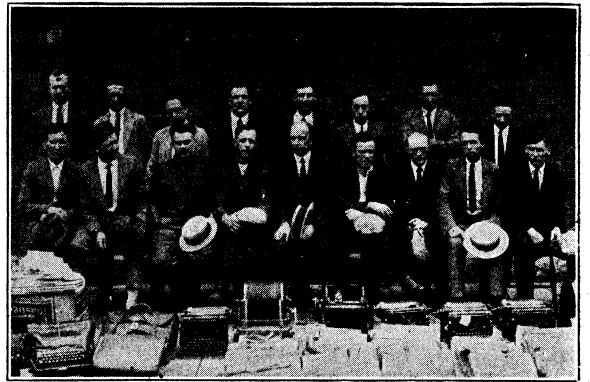
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# C. E. Ruthenberg

By William Z. Foster



*A group of Michigan Defendants.*

**T**HE death of C. E. Ruthenberg removes from the ranks of the working class one of its best fighters and leaders. In the movement for labor defense, the unflagging interest of Comrade Ruthenberg will make his departure a special loss. He approached the subject of labor defense not only as one who understood the political significance of it in a general way but from the standpoint of one who has personally had an extended experience as a political prisoner.

Comrade Ruthenberg was one of the most often indicted and imprisoned workers in the American movement. He served ten months in Canton, Ohio, jail for anti-war activities, and two years in Sing Sing for his activities in the formation of the left wing in 1919. At the time of his death he had hanging over his head a sentence of from five to ten years in Jackson Penitentiary for participation in the Communist convention held in Bridgeman, Michigan.

I was associated with him in the latter case. Comrade Ruthenberg regarded this whole affair as an unavoidable part of the struggle to which he was giving his life. He planned his actions

in court with the thought in mind that his defense was a part of the strategy of the working class movement in its battle against the ruling class for freedom.

In this trial, as in his others, the cards were stacked against him. The judge was unsympathetic, the prosecuting attorney was determined to "get" Ruthenberg at all costs, irrespective of the merits of the case or the validity of the charges. The jury was composed of conservative, backward farmers, who knew little if anything of the working class struggle, who had deep-seated prejudices on social and political questions, who were ignorant of the great social theories and movements that are stirring the entire world and shaking empires to the dust. The charge made against Ruthenberg, that of assembling with advocates of violence, was in plain violation of the provisions of the United States Constitution, which did not disturb the prosecution in the least.

Ruthenberg made his defense like a true proletarian fighter. He made no effort to evade the question or to seek refuge in legal trickery. He made a clean-cut defense of the left wing movement. From the witness stand, in

which Ruthenberg put hours of the time of the trial, he outlined the position of his party, its attitude toward the questions of the day, its role in the labor movement, its aims and its methods. His thoughtful analysis was itself a challenge and a warning to the capitalist court that while it was likely that he would be convicted, the historic movement which he represented at the trial could not possibly be imprisoned or defeated, since it had its roots in the soil of the society in which it was growing, and which continued to nourish it.

To offset this valiant defense of the working class position the prosecution resorted to the usual chicanery and demagogy. They carefully calculated upon what points in the case would present themselves most unfavorably to the reactionary jury and they played upon these points for all they were worth. The rigid religious attacks of the prosecutors upon the revolutionary program of the Communist Party. The inevitable result of the complex of factors making up the trial situation was the conviction of Ruthenberg. It was a typical class verdict in a capitalist court, such as hundreds of workers have come to learn in the United States within the past ten years.

Ruthenberg was the spokesman of the movement he led. He asked no quarter and gave none. He took as a matter of course this temporary victory of the enemy. His case was appealed to the United States supreme court, after his sentence had been affirmed by the supreme court of Michigan. At the time of his death, he was momentarily expecting a decision by the United States supreme court. Already the word had been passed out sub-rosa that this reactionary court would sustain his conviction. Only his untimely death prevented Ruthenberg from going to the penitentiary once more.

Throughout his life Ruthenberg bore himself as a true soldier of the revolution. His name will live in the annals of the American working class along with those of other brave fighters of the labor movement.

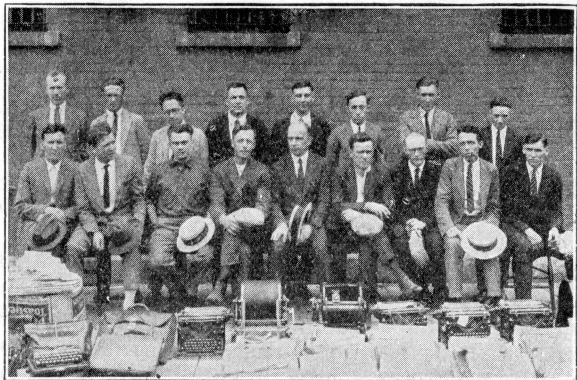


*Some of wreaths sent expressing sorrow at Ruthenberg's Death.*





*Some of wreaths sent expressing sorrow at Ruthenberg's Death.*



*A group of Michigan Defendants.*



# The State versus Thomas Regan, Textile Striker

By Hollace Ransdell.

IT was a small but deeply interested crowd which gathered in the Bergen County Court of Common Pleas on March 10th to hear the trial of Thomas Regan, textile striker, charged with "bombing". The prosecutor went thru certain routine formulas, Judge William Seufert gave the necessary response, briefly disposing of half a dozen liquor cases, and the main trial of the day opened.

The lips of Assistant Prosecuting Attorney John Breslin curled in a sneer as he read off "The State versus Thomas Regan". A short, thin, energetic man of 33 or 34, with small red-rimmed eyes, he seemed eager to start the chase, pulling at the legal technicalities which bound him like a lively hound straining to be free and dash after his prey.

If the crooks of Bergen and Passaic counties kept themselves properly informed of the movements of their enemies, the police force, they would have chosen March 10th as the day on which to pull off some of their big jobs. For apparently a goodly portion of the various brands of police and detectives from surrounding police courts were called as witnesses for the State against Thomas Regan.

An unparalleled exhibit of brainless brawn was brought on to testify as to the various activities of young Thomas Regan during the strike. Cop after cop told of having seen Regan leading picket lines and of learning that he was a delegate of the Union from the Forstmann and Huffmann mill. They described his union activity as though they were testifying to his commitment of desperate crimes. He had been arrested five or six times during the height of the strike for such terrible things as not vanishing magically when ordered to "move on" by some policeman during the mass picketing. As Arthur Garfield Hays, attorney for the defense brought out, Regan had the distinction of being arrested for one offense, charged after arrest with another, and tried for a third. As an active member of the striking union, the police had formed a grudge against Regan, and determined to "get him", if not by one means then another.

The prosecution had been passing hints mysteriously for some time before the trial of "surprise" witnesses for the State, which would make it quite useless for the defendant to plead "not guilty". These surprise witnesses turned out to be several strikers now in prison whom the prosecution claimed had turned state's witness and were going to testify

against their union companions. One of the prisoners, Alex Kostamaha, who is at present serving three years in Trenton, not for having harmed anybody but for being a striker, was brought out several times and exhibited to the jury on one pretext or another. His prison-cropped head would create prejudice against Regan, the prosecutor doubtless thought. But he was not put on the stand and for a very good reason. The day before the trial Mrs. Kostamaha rushed into the union office breathless and worried. She had just come back from a trip to

the defense.

Having no evidence against Regan and no witnesses except the police, it did not take the prosecution long to present its case. A great hulking mass known as John Hindenburg, a member of the detective force of Garfield squirmed uncomfortably on the stand under the cross-examination of Mr. Hays into the third-degree beating which he gave Regan and perjured himself by denying. "Whitey" Adamcheski, an Albino motorcycle police, blinked his white-lashed eyes uneasily as he described Regan's arrest. Lieutenant Gerry Dawson of the detective force lolled negligently in the chair as he related in a cynical and indiffer-



*We know how milk tastes now. Children of Passaic strikers at Victory Playground enjoying milk.*

visit her husband in prison and he told her that he had been served with a subpoena to appear against Regan. He commissioned her to hurry back to union headquarters at once and tell the members there not to be disturbed if he was put on the stand. He knew nothing at all damaging to Regan and would say so in court, as he had no intention of trying to get any time off for himself by lying against a union friend.

A second prisoner whom the prosecution also made a pretense of using against Regan was Paul Kovac, a strike sympathizer who has been in jail for five months. He was tried several weeks previously on similar "bombing" charges, judged guilty by a jury and is awaiting sentence at the present time. He also informed the union that he had been served with a subpoena, and that he neither knew nor intended to say anything harmful to Regan when put on the stand. At the trial, although called by the prosecutor, he was in effect a witness for

ent voice how he had "courteously" requested a statement from Regan, and of how anxious Regan was to incriminate himself.

In spite of the insistence of the numerous representatives of the police and detective forces of Garfield, Clifton, Hackensack and Passaic that 24-year-old Regan, who had never been arrested in his life before the strike, was a dark, dangerous desperate, he was acquitted by the jury, the first of eleven men arrested on similar charges to be freed.

The prosecution made no attempt to deny that the so-called "bombs" were only fire-crackers sold legally in Bergen county continually for use at fest-year's Eve. The strikers in jail said that a whole string of these fire crackers were set off just outside the jail where they, themselves were imprisoned on charges of being in possession of the same fire crackers.

And in Trenton, five men are now serving a sentence of three years each for the same offense.



*We know how milk tastes now. Children of Passaic strikers at Victory Playground enjoying milk.*



# THE BLOODY ACTIONS OF THE LITHUANIAN HANGMEN

By W. Miczkievitch-Kapaukas.

**T**HE Lithuanian fascists have exposed their true faces. The court martial has sentenced to death and executed four of the best Communists of Lithuania, only for their crime of being Communists and having been leaders of the labor movement in Lithuania. Other Communists and workers, the best sons of the Lithuanian working class, are faced with the same fate. The Lithuanian bankers, landowners, kulaks and their clique demand still more peasant blood. The miserable puppets of the Christian Democrats—who are at the head of the fascist government—the nationalists, state that they are powerless to undertake anything in order to stop the work of the hangmen, which is obviously led by Christian fascists under orders from London and Warsaw.



*Lithuanian youth, arrested at International Youth Day demonstration at Kovno.*

*From left to right: 1. Jaffe Abram, 2. Preikshar Kazys; 3. Lukavichius Alfar; 4. Lifshitz Aizik.*

The Lithuanian fascists who have taken office against the will of the broad working masses of Lithuania, feel their own weakness and hope to maintain power by the application of a ruthless white terror. They hope to be able to follow the example of Zankow's Bulgaria and to annihilate physically the working class and the poor peasants.

In order to disguise this policy, if only weakly, they invented the provocation that the Communist Party and the trade unions had prepared a conspiracy against the government and had received for this purpose money from Warsaw. In the bourgeois foreign press the lie was spread that Comrades Angaretis and Kapsukas had come to Lithuania from Moscow specially in order to lead the coup d'etat.

However, the white thread with which these mean lies are sown to-

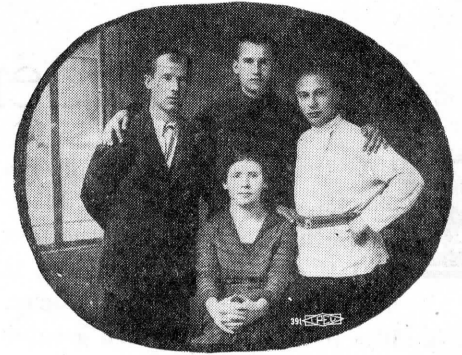
gether, are quite obvious, because in all its appeals and articles, the Communist Party declared that neither its own nor the trade unions have the least intentions to prepare a coup d'etat. The Communist Party has again and again urged a fight against the threatening fascist coup d'etat and against



*A group of Lithuanian revolutionaries imprisoned by fascist government. Among them, Greifenberger, Communist, now executed.*

an alliance with fascist Poland. It appealed to armed defence for the independence of Lithuania against the Polish imperialism. By means of increased white terror the Lithuanian fascists want to raise the prestige of Lithuania in the eyes of the International bourgeoisie. They are not in the least interested in the fact that by this policy they turn the independence of Lithuania into a farce.

However, these masters of bloodshed and violence will severely burn their fingers. The working class of the whole world will not observe silently the events in Lithuania. Realizing that the



*Lithuanian prisoners of Panevezis: Einhorn Sima. Standing, left to right: Raipsten Shmuil-Chaiki; Raibstein Josel and Franc Volf.*

present events in Lithuania are only the beginning of a bloody fascist orgy, a new spur to fascism in some further countries (above all in the other Baltic states); realizing that this is a new blow directed against the Soviet Union, the workers of the Soviet Union and of the whole world will raise their powerful voice of protest. They will brand the Lithuanian hangmen and their imperialist instigators in the same way as they did the Bulgarian murderers. They will remain on guard and resist unitedly all those who might dare a new adventure against the Soviet Union. They will offer their fraternal assistance to their fellow workers in fascist Lithuania. The terror, which now begins to rage in Lithuania, will only strengthen the hatred of the toiling masses against the fascist regime. The final result will be the unification of all workers and peasants for the overthrow of the hateful yoke of the bankers, landowners, Kulaks and all imperialist robbers whose final aim is nothing but the subjection of Lithuania and its exploitation in their interest.

Eternal memory to the victims of the Lithuanian hangmen!

**POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES**  
CLARENCE M. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

<p>INDICATE CLASS OF CABLEGRAM BY X</p> <p>PREFERRED _____</p> <p>ORDINARY _____</p> <p>DEFERRED _____</p> <p>CABLE LETTER _____</p> <p>WEEK END LETTER _____</p> <p><small>MARK AN X OPPOSITE THE CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE THE CABLEGRAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED AT ORDINARY RATE</small></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">CABLEGRAM</p> <p>TELEGRAMS TO ALL AMERICA</p> <p>CABLEGRAMS TO ALL THE WORLD</p>	<p>CHECK _____</p> <p>TIME FILED _____</p> <p>ROUTE VIA _____</p>
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**GREATLY AROUSED BY REPORTS COURT MARTIAL TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS POLITICAL**

**OPONENTS stop WE DEMAND ABOLITION THIS PROCEDURE AND CIVIL TRIALS FOR ALL**

**ACCUSED**

**UPTON SINCLAIR**  
**BISHOP WM MONTGOMERY BROWN**  
**JAMES H MAURER**  
**VICTOR L BERGER**  
**THEODORE DEBS**  
**DR JOHN LAPP**  
**SCOTT NEARING**  
**DUNCAN McDONALD**  
**DAVID STARR JORDAN**  
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**E C WERTWORTH**  
**ALICE STONE BLACKWELL**

*Copy of Cablegram sent protesting Lithuanian White Terror.*

# Ruthenberg, The Fighter

**T**HE great outpouring of the masses for the memorial meetings bears testimony to the fact that the name of Ruthenberg is highly honored already today.

It is quite probable that much greater honor will be given to his memory in the future. For Ruthenberg was a Pioneer in a great social movement which has the future on its side, and history deals generously with pioneers.

Most of us who had the opportunity of working hand in hand with Comrade Ruthenberg through many stormy years can pay an ungrudging tribute to those personal qualities which made him such an outstanding figure in the ranks of the American revolutionaries. He was steeled and strengthened by every test imposed upon him and remained a dauntless, unwavering fighter to the end. He died at his post in the prime of his powers, as befits a soldier.

We will not deny the shock of grief that his untimely death brought to every one of us, but just the same we could stand at his funeral with heads uplifted in pride that this man, who embodied so many of the highest qualities of soldier manhood, belonged to us.

We honor Ruthenberg for his long and valiant revolutionary record. I first met him in 1913 when he came to Akron to speak to the striking rubber workers. He was already then a prominent figure in the Socialist Party and his speech had the ring of militancy which denotes the irreconcilable enemy of capitalism. We sized him up then as a fighter and later knowledge of his character, born of the closest association in common work, only strengthened and confirmed the first impression and estimate. "He was a fighter". These words came spontaneously to the lips of his comrades-in-arms in the first moment we heard of his passing. What tribute can be higher?

He was no fly-by-night dabbler with the idea of revolution. His record goes back for many years. The proletarian revolutionaries who fought on the side of Haywood remember with gratitude his support in the great battle which came to a climax in 1912. A consistent

advocate of political action, he, nevertheless, even in those days fought against the current of reformist corruption in the Socialist Party and interpreted "politics" in the proletarian and revolutionary sense.

He fought the capitalist war. He carried the St. Louis Resolution out into the public streets of Cleveland and attempted to organize the laboring masses around it. The most prized picture of him which adorns this page shows Ruthenberg, the fighter, in action, speaking against the war on the Public Square of Cleveland. He paid the price for his courage with a year's imprisonment in the Canton Workhouse, that same workhouse within whose shadow Debs made his historic speech. Ruthenberg, Wagenknecht and Baker, prisoners there at the time, were the inspiration of that speech which rang 'round the world.

On his release from prison, Ruthenberg identified himself with the Left Wing of the Socialist Party which was taking shape under the influence of the Russian Revolution. He was the only one of the nationally prominent leaders of the Party to come with the Left Wing and remain consistently through all the vicissitudes of the struggle. He was a follower of the Communist International since the first day its banner was raised. His vision of a great revolutionary organization on an international scale unfolded his powers and raised him far above the petty men whose conception of Socialism was distorted by narrow national provincialism.

Ruthenberg, the fighter, stood up in the Capitalist Court in New York in 1920, facing a ten-year sentence, and hurled the scorn and defiance of

a revolutionary class in the face of the Judge and the Prosecutor. The young Communist Party was outlawed and driven underground, the reaction was everywhere triumphant, but this man arose from his seat in the courtroom and calmly informed all present that the cause which they sought to imprison would emerge triumphant and put its heel on all class oppression.

As one of the founders of the I. L. D. and a member of its National Committee from the first, Ruthenberg was a great believer in the idea of non-partisan labor defense on the basis of the class struggle. Himself a class war prisoner, he felt a close kinship with all workers who languish in the prison-hells of the masters. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the work of the I. L. D. in helping and defending all persecuted workers regardless of their views or affiliations.

Those who knew him best knew him as, above all, a Party Man. He was all for the party. He regarded the revolutionary party of the workers as the highest instrument history creates

## The Passing of an American Pioneer

for the liberation of the enslaved masses of the world. He attached the greatest significance to every action or decision of the party and set an example of discipline and responsibility in all his work.

He was a tireless worker for the party. His great energies were given unsparingly to its service. In the literal sense of the word it can be said he lived for the party. Yes, and died for it too. For if he had spared himself a little and devoted even the minimum attention to his own health, there is no doubt that the fatal illness could have been warded off.

Ruthenberg was a soldier. He saw the cause for which he labored as a fighter to which one must bring the discipline and devotion of an army that never knows retreat. He was a soldier who had faith in his cause. He staked his head on that cause and gave his life for it.

The America of today reeks with cynicism and corruption. The Americans of energy and talent are in the service of the oppressors. America is

money-mad. Brains and ability are bought and sold—nothing is given away. Those who see higher values than personal material gain are regarded as fools in our insane America. Corruption is the hall-mark of our country.

Ruthenberg was an American who did not go that way. Money meant nothing to him and the "honors" which capitalism bestows upon its lackeys meant even less. His vision was a social one, the world was his country and the oppressed masses were his people. To the service of the oppressed masses he gave all his energies and talents without calculation or price. He lived a full and fruitful life of struggle and sacrifice for an imperishable ideal and died a soldier's death.

The America of today had no time for Ruthenberg. For this splendid character, this valiant soldier of the revolution, the masters of America had no praise. They covered him with ignominy. They hounded him from one prison to another. At the time of his death the Honorable Judges of the Supreme Court had his latest conviction under review. Capitalist America made Ruthenberg an outlaw and a convict.

The work that Ruthenberg performed with such fidelity in his life time remains behind him. His example of courage, devotion and self-sacrifice remains as an asset of the movement as a whole. His tradition as a revolutionary fighter will be treasured by every section of the militant labor movement. The new generation of militants will be influenced by that tradition and will carefully safeguard it.

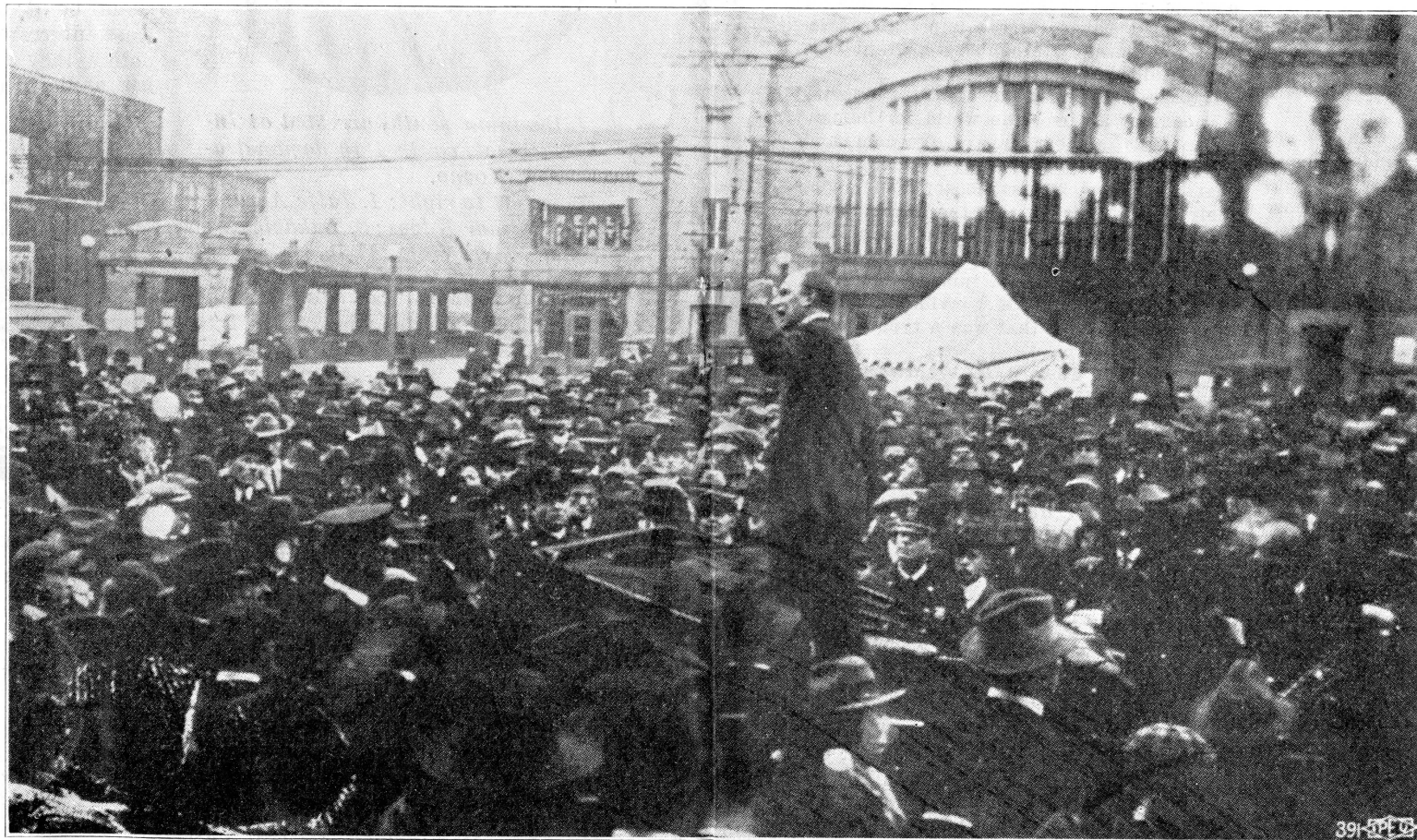
Let the corrupt and decaying capitalist society have these heroes who typify it—the dollar-chasing exploiters, the blood-smeared generals, the lying, treacherous statesmen. Our movement, which is the herald of the new social order, claims proudly for its own the men of a different and immeasurably better type—the type of Ruthenberg.



Ruthenberg addressing an anti-militarist demonstration in Cleveland, 1918.

By James P. Cannon.





*Ruthenberg addressing an anti-militarist demonstration in Cleveland, 1918.*

# Tributes to Ruthenberg.

## Charles E. Ruthenberg

### A Tribute by the National Committee of International Labor Defense

We are profoundly grieved at the untimely death of our comrade and co-worker C. E. Ruthenberg, which is a loss not only to the Communist movement which he led, and to the labor movement in which he spent years of his active life, but to the International Labor Defense, upon the national executive committee of which he served actively since its inception.

Comrade Ruthenberg was one of the leading defendants in the Michigan communist trials, arising out of the arrests in 1922. During his trial, Comrade Ruthenberg conducted himself with an honorable firmness which did credit to the movement with which he was associated. He had no fear or regard for the threat of a long term of imprisonment under the Michigan criminal syndicalism law, and remained unequivocally true to his principles and the cause of the working class, maintaining the best traditions of revolutionary fighters who are seized and tried by the class enemy.

The trial in Michigan was not the first trial of Comrade Ruthenberg. His long years of activity in the labor movement and revolutionary movements had frequently brought him before the capitalist courts. In the period of war hysteria and persecution, his dauntless opposition to the imperialist slaughter brought upon him a term at hard labor in Ohio. In the period after the war, in the course of his work in the formation of the Communist Party, he was again tried and imprisoned in a New York penitentiary. But this continued persecution only steeled his determination to fight in the class struggle.

Our tribute to the work of Comrade Ruthenberg, who was one of the pioneers in the creation of a broad non-partisan movement for labor defense, is our determination to prevent the imprisonment of those of his comrades who are still under charges in the Michigan cases and the many others who are on trial or in prison.

All honor to this revolutionary fighter who has died in the struggle for working class freedom!

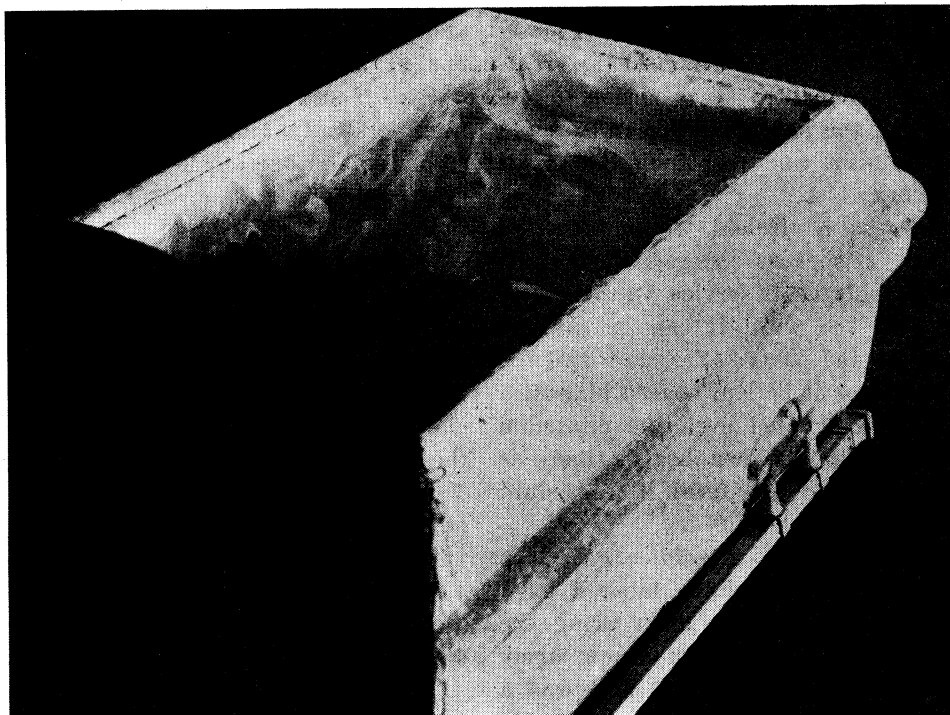
Our deep sympathy to the comrades and co-workers, and to the family of the departed leader!

National Committee of the  
International Labor Defense.

**JAMES P. CANNON,**  
Executive Secretary.

### Debs Family Sends Condolences.

Theodore Debs, whose recently departed brother was a member of the national committee of International Labor Defense, sent a telegram signed by himself and his wife Gertrude to the national office of I. L. D. on the death of C. E. Ruthenberg, leader of the Workers (Communist) Party, and one of the members of the executive committee of the I. L. D.. The message follows:



*Body of Ruthenberg lying in state at Ashland Auditorium, Chicago.*

“Terre Haute, Ind.

“James P. Cannon,  
“Chicago, Ill.

“Please convey to the family of Comrade Ruthenberg our deepest and tenderest sympathy.

“Theodore and Gertrude Debs.”

### International Red Aid Cables Sorrow.

International Labor Defense,  
Chicago, Ill.

Executive Committee Mopr condoles central committee International Labor Defense loss Ruthenberg. His work behalf victims capitalist terrorism class justice will be remembered as example all loyal members working class.

Executive Committee I. R. A.

Moscow.

### “Ruthenberg’s Life Own Eulogy”— Professor Ellen Hayes.

Political radicals everywhere may well be reminded by the loss of Comrade Ruthenberg that “we really approach a brink over which no enemy can follow us”—neither calumny, nor law courts, nor unjust officials, nor prisons. Whatever experiences await those yet in the fight, Comrade Ruthenberg, untimely fallen, will know nothing further of either toll or persecution. His name is now on the lengthening list of heroes who even in death lead and teach the world. A life so unselfish as his, so fearless, so wholly devoted to the far-reaching good of the workers, speaks—without intention—its own eulogy; and it summons the wavering and the fearful to the forward-moving ranks.

Ellen Hayes.

Wellesley, Mass.

### “Stiffens Workers’ Resistance”— Wentworth.

The reaction to any great tragedy or sorrow in loss of leadership is a stiffening of resistance against a retreat on ground that has been won in the battle for the development of social progress. The keynote of all of the speakers at the impressive farewell to Comrade Ruthenberg held in Car-men’s Hall was just this.

The progress made in the last quarter of a century all over the world for humanity towards a new era of freedom and equal opportunity is plainly evident, but what it has cost in sacrifice of noble lives, freely giving their all, that the higher cause of which they were terribly conscious, might succeed, is just as obvious. Ruthenberg was one of these, unassuming but holding a simplicity of convincing power and restless energy that was a type of successful leadership.

Edward C. Wentworth,  
Vice-chairman International  
Labor Defense.

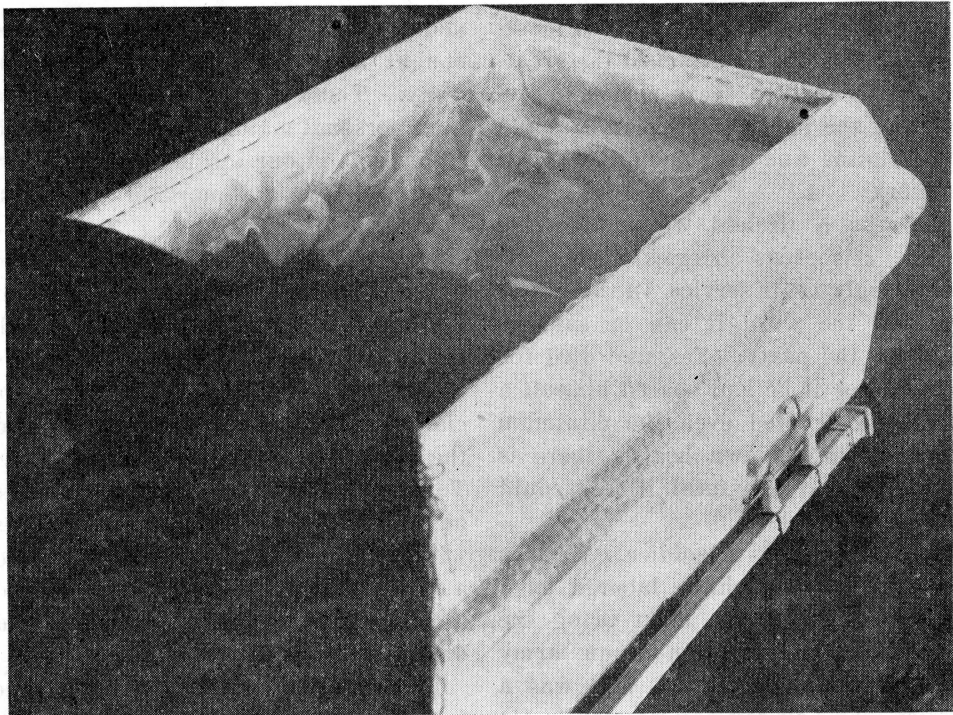
Chicago, Ill.

### “World Richer in Ideals Because He Lived”—David Rhys Williams.

Miss Rose Karsner,  
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Miss Karsner:

I knew Chas. E. Ruthenberg personally and loved him for his courage and consecration. He was a man who was wholeheartedly dedicated to the cause of human progress. To him the cause of human progress in this day and generation meant the emancipation of the working class and its rise to power. No man ever gave himself to his cause more unselfishly. The world is richer in ideals and inspiration because he lived, richer also in economic thought



*Body of Ruthenberg lying in state at Ashland Auditorium, Chicago.*

“Terre Haute, Ind.

“Stiffens Workers’ Resistance”—



and political insight. May the work he layed down, be taken up by able hands.

Sincerely,

David Rhys Williams,

Minister of the Third Unitarian  
Church of Chicago.

better humanity. The hope of that struggle is that it should produce other like him.

Fraternally yours,

Forrest Bailey.

New York City,  
American Civil Liberties Union.

### "Ruthenberg—Sane Vision and High Intelligence—Great Leader": Forrest Bailey.

International Labor Defense,  
Chicago, Ill.

Ruthenberg, the leader, combined qualities which are rarely found together in one man. There was in him an element of fanatical devotion—the outgrowth of his ardent convictions, and there was also a quality of sane vision and high intelligence which kept him a realist in the sphere of action. This happy blending of zeal and wisdom, of purpose and power, made him the great leader that he was. His kind of leadership is the kind that is most needed in the struggle of humanity to realize a

### Supreme Court Dismisses Ruthenberg Case.

U. S. supreme court on March 14th dismissed the appeal from conviction and prison sentence of the late C. E. Ruthenberg, imposed as a result of the 1922 convention of the Communist Party of America at Bridgemen, Michigan, where 31 other Communist leaders together with Ruthenberg were arrested and remanded for trial under the criminal syndicalism law of the state of Michigan.

The death of Ruthenberg, former general secretary of the Workers

(Communist) Party, was the basis of the supreme court action in not making a decision on the merits of the appeal. The International Labor Defense, in charge of the cases of the Michigan defendants, had in appealing the Ruthenberg conviction challenged the constitutionality of the Michigan criminal syndicalism. The Michigan cases have attracted nation-wide attention.

The trial of William Z. Foster, who was tried prior to C. E. Ruthenberg on the above charges, resulted in a disagreement. It is reported that the Michigan authorities intend to press the case of another of the Michigan defendants. No particular name has been mentioned. The International Labor Defense will conduct a vigorous campaign to secure the dismissal of all cases pending; in case of another trial, it will conduct the defense.

## A REBEL WORKER'S LIFE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY By Eugene Barnett

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE.)

**U**GAVE them Dad's name and address at the mining camp in Possums Glory, Penna., in the hope that they would send me there. They sent a telegram to Dad, but the lines were broken down and it didn't get through. A heavy snow storm farther up the state had put all the wires down, and mother had the authorities at Egg Harbor looking for me. So before Dad got the telegram they had found out where I was, and mother had sent money for me to get a ticket back home. I was in the jail forty-eight hours and during that time I got half a loaf of bread and a quart of water four times, half a loaf of bread twice a day. That was all I got to eat.

But I was willing to try again, so when Spring came I got me a bicycle and made it up with a German kid there that we would go on a certain day. When the day came I went to the place where we were to meet but he sent his sister to tell me he had changed his mind. So I went alone. I rode the bicycle to Pittsburgh, Penna. When I got there I was broke and the tires were worn through to the canvas. So I sold the wheel for three dollars and bought a ticket to Wheeling, W. Va.

I had heard there were union mines there, or near there. When I got to Wheeling, I was told the mines were at Benwood and Glendale, ten or

twelve miles down the Ohio River from Wheeling. So next morning, I started out for Benwood afoot, for I only had a few cents left and I wanted to save it to buy food with.



*My four brothers. Standing from top to bottom: Jimmie, Commodore and Rutherford. On porch, Sherman.*

When I got to Benwood I found there had been a strike, that the union miners had injunctions against them, and the mines were running with

scabs. So I kept on hiking. When I got to Glendale, I found it the same there. But a fellow there told me that the mines across the river were union mines and were working. So I crossed the river and walked back up the other side to the Pultney mine at Shadyside, Ohio, where I got a job. Next morning I signed the checkoff for union dues and at a meeting two days later I took the oath and I have been a union man ever since.

There was certainly a contrast between the conditions at this mine and the non-union ones I had worked in before. The first thing I noticed was electric lights all the way along the entry that we had to travel going in and out. And there were safety lights with red bulbs that only became illuminated when a trip of cars was coming in or out. And there were manholes to stand in while the cars were passing, so a man would not be caught in case of a wreck. And next was the air, for they had a fan; and the air was fresh and pure and it would whistle through a crack in a trap door, or behind a sliver on a prop, like a March wind outside. And the lights, instead of being red like blood, as they are in a poorly ventilated mine, burned clear and bright.

And the men were different. Instead of the blackguardism and smutty stories of the scab and the non-union workers, when these men got together they talked unionism, or socialism, or of something needed to better their conditions, and they never looked fur-



*My four brothers. Standing from top to bottom: Jimmie, Commodore and Rutherford. On porch, Sherman.*

tively about, and then whispered what they wished to say, as I had seen men do in the non-union camps. We worked eight hours a day, got our pay every two weeks, instead of once a month, and traded where we pleased. And the commissary was as cheap as elsewhere, for the two cities were close, with a street car every half hour.

One night the boaring boss asked me if I wanted to go to a socialist meeting and I went with him. I liked the talk and after the meeting I joined the Socialist Party, bought some books and subscribed for the Appeal to Reason and the Rip Saw, I stuck with them until I found the I. W. W. had something better and a surer way to get it.

The next Spring, after I went to Shadyside, I got typhoid fever, and I was homesick too, so as soon as they could the doctors sent me home. Porters had to change me from one train to another in a wheel chair. I was in bed and out of my head for three weeks after I got home, then I started to get better. When I got so I could walk and before I was strong enough to work I went to school for about two months at Lower Bank, N. J. An old farmer by the name of Lou Adams was teacher.

That fall I pitched hay for him, then bought a ticket back to Bellaire, Ohio, six miles from Shadyside. I worked around Belmont County, in mines and brickyards, and on the railroad. I helped unload iron slag on Rip Rap work one winter for the B. & O. Railroad when men were hard to get for that outside work. There was no kick on my work but when Spring came they said I was too small, and paid me off. That was the first time I had ever been discharged and I felt bad about it.

The Winter I was seventeen there was a local strike in the mines, and work was scarce so I decided to join the navy. I went to Wheeling and took the examination. But the War Eagle Coal Company had got what Uncle Sam wanted. My physical fitness, my crippled foot and knee, would



*My outfit the day I started to Washington from Idaho.*

not pass and I was turned away. Being single, I did not want to live off of the union while the strike was on, when so many of the married men needed help so I took a job on the section of the McClainsville, Ohio.

Besides myself there was a little Italian fellow, a fellow named Marion Lemaster from West Virginia, who was straw boss, and a big Irishman who was the real boss and boasted of weighing 217 pounds, and he used to stand on the handcar and loaded it with tools and make the three of us lift it on or off the track. I was scissor bill enough to do it for three months before I was man enough to refuse to do it; when I did refuse I got fired but I didn't mind it so much this time.

When I got my time I caught a freight and headed West, went to Chicago, and from there to Aurora, Ill. There I went to work for the Gas company, worked there for a while, then came to Wyoming, and worked on a cattle ranch a while north of Cheyenne, then went to Denver, drove a mule in the Leyden mine three days, before I found out there had been a strike there

and that the men working there were scabbing. When I found it out I quit. Three days later it blew up and killed all the men in it. I have been in two minor explosions, and I only missed a real one by three days.

After that I worked in a grading camp, at Midway, Colorado, for the Osner and Woiner Construction company. They were building irrigation dams and ditches. It was there I got "crumbs" (body lice). I had them for about a week before I found it out, at least I must have had them that long, for I had a million when I found it out, so I quit and went to town to clean up, then started for Washington. I stopped in the Brigham Valley in Utah, and picked peaches, then came to The Dalles, Oregon. Here I worked for the Stadelman Ice company, icing cars for them to ship fruit in, and finally got to Portland the day before Labor Day, 1910. I saw the parades the next day, then shipped out to an extra gang job, got lousy and went back to town, got in too late to buy clean clothes.

(To Be Continued.)

#### Contributions for February, 1927:

14847 Angelo Rossi, Fayetteville, W. Va.....	3.00
14848 Wallace T. Metcalf, Local Youngstown, Ohio .....	10.00
14849 George Maurer, Local Chicago, Ill.....	20.00
14850 M. Krasic, So. Slavic Sec., Chicago, Illinois .....	75.00
14851 Estella Tarkoff, Boulder, Colo.....	5.00
14852 Robert Zelms, New England Div.....	5.00
14853 Mrs. Walter Richter, Clear Lake, Wisconsin .....	1.00
14854 Mrs. Emelia Alanen, Mass, Mich.....	1.30
14855 K. Bodaias, Zeigler, Ill.....	1.00
14856 Harry Dragon, Sh'eremeta Benefit Society, N. Tonowanda, N. Y.....	5.00
14857 Ben Sanvala, Kalama, Wash.....	10.00
14858 M. Gimenez, Redwood City, Cal.....	6.00
14859 Void .....	.....
14860 Abraham Cornbach, Cincinnati, Ohio.....	1.00
14861 George Maurer, Local Chicago, Ill.....	3.00
14862 M. Kalousek, Czecho-Slovak Section Chicago, Ill.....	25.00
14863 A. Tishon, Local Kenosha, Wis.....	3.96
14864 Joseph Haczke, Flushing, N. Y.....	5.35
14865 J. Lipstone, Petaluma, Cal.....	9.50
14866 Alex Drazntik, Gary, Ind.....	3.00
14867 George Maurer, Local Chicago, Ill.....	5.00

14868 Mrs. Eva Wolfsjager, Freie Verein der Frauen Gemeinde, Milwaukee, Wisconsin .....	25.00
14869 Harvey Watts, Local Minneapolis, Minnesota .....	13.00
14870 Jens Jensen, Bridgeport, Conn.....	5.00
14871 Louis A. Barnett, Newark, N. J.....	2.00
14872 Robert Zelms, New England Div.....	10.00
14873 J. Lyman, Local Philadelphia, Pa.....	28.00
14874 Adam Fabrich, Local Gary, Ind.....	177.98
14875 Edgar Owens, Local San Francisco, California .....	25.00
14876 Robert Zelms, New England Div.....	225.00
14877 Joseph Bucko, South Bend, Ind.....	1.00
14878 J. B. Welzenbach, Wolf Point, Mont.....	1.00
14879 Waino Kerchoven, Berkeley, Cal.....	8.10
14880 Helen N. Yeskavich, Brooklyn, N. Y.....	5.00
14881 Carl Guillod, Local Canton, Ohio.....	30.00
14882 George Young, Local Valier, Ill.....	2.00
14883 Mrs. Walter Richter, Clear Lake, Wisconsin .....	1.00
14884 S. Landau, Chicago, Ill.....	2.50
14885 J. Janovezik, Brooklyn, N. Y.....	3.00
14886 Robert Zelms, New England Div.....	5.00
14887 Mike Paperelli, New York, N. Y.....	1.00
14888 P. Di Giambattista, Loc. Avella, Pa.....	5.00
14889 F. Kriechlamer, Martins Ferry, Ohio .....	2.00

14890 M. Kalousek, Czecho-Slovak Sec., Chicago, Ill.....	100.00
14891 S. Katz, Sanatorium, Colo.....	5.00
14892 A. Kratofil, Norwalk, Ohio.....	5.00
14893 M. Kalousek, Czecho-Slovak Sec., Chicago, Ill.....	15.00
14894 M. Newcombe, Arden, Del.....	5.00
14895 H. Perkon, Local Erie, Pa.....	9.00
14896 S. Melus, Polish Branch, Passaic, New Jersey .....	5.00
14897 L. Mitseff, Local Portland, Ore.....	2.50
14898 Rose Baron, Local New York, N. Y.....	10.00
14899 Cyril Lambkin, Local Detroit, Mich.....	50.00
14900 Charlota Anita Whitney, Oakland, California .....	5.00
14901 The Siegel Family, Ontario, Cal.....	1.00
14902 E. Ring, Newberry Workers' Club, Newberry, Mich.....	5.00
14903 A. N. Routid, Detroit, Mich.....	10.00
14904 George Maurer, Local Chicago, Ill.....	15.00
14905 Joe Korsic, Auburn, Ill.....	20.75
14906 Arthur Rogers, Bloomfield, Conn.....	5.00
14907 Sophie Levine, St. Louis, Mo.....	18.00
14908 Cora Meyer, Local Milwaukee, Wis.....	5.00
14909 Robert Meyer, New England Div.....	5.00
Total Receipts .....	\$1,072.54





*My outfit the day I started to Washington from Idaho.*



# Voices FROM Prison

## Pablo Manlupit.

Honolulu, T. H.

Mr. James P. Cannon,  
Sec. I. L. D., Chicago, Ill.  
Dear Comrades:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter with the enclosed \$50 check.

I certainly appreciate the spirit of your organization in remembering the families of those who sacrificed for the cause of the oppressed toilers. Your organization is the best friend of laborers who are fighting to better the condition of mankind.

Thru your organization, I wish to thank the contributors to the Xmas Fund of the class war prisoners and their families. I wish to thank the officers of your organization for the efforts in raising relief for us unfortunates.

For the information of the International Labor Defense, my husband became eligible for parole since the 5th day of this month, but he is still in prison. The Board of Prison Inspectors recommended to the governor, that my husband be paroled on condition he leaves the territory for the Philippines. My husband questions the legal right of the board to send him away from the territory.

I called on the governor and explained how unfair, unwarranted and arbitrary was the action of the board. He said that he is sorry, but I can go and see the members of the board and make my appeal to them, which I did. The only answer the board gave me is, they are going to see at the next meeting what could be done.

My husband can't leave the territory and leave his family here. He has no money to meet the transportation expenses for all of us. Besides this, he does not want to go and leave the territory without the legal deportation proceeding, which the territorial law has nothing of the kind. The Board of Prison Inspectors has no right to deport any one against his will. The law don't give them the power to report from the territory. Only federal law could force the man to be deported.

Now the only remedy to this further imprisonment of my husband is a legal fight, but I have no money to pay attorney's fee and the cost of the court.

My husband has served his minimum sentence, less commutation as provided by law.

Will close with best wishes for all.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Pablo Manlupit.

## Cornelison.

San Quentin, Calif.

Dear Comrade:

Please find receipt in this letter for check of \$5.00, and am thanking the International Labor Defense for same.

With fraternal greetings,

John J. Cornelison.

## Three I. W. W.s.

San Quentin, Calif.

I. L. D.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Fellow Worker:

We, the undersigned, have each received your communication of the 26th with carbon copy enclosed. We are also in receipt of twenty dollars for relief purposes. This money is a remittance from you to W. Randall who is our representative, and who has distributed the money in the following manner in accordance with your instructions:

R. V. Taylor, five dollars.

Alex Nicholson, five dollars.

Wm. Bryan, ten dollars.

With best wishes, we remain,

Yours for the I. W. W.,

(Signed) Wm. Bryan, No. 39344.

Alex Nicholson, No. 39348.

R. V. Taylor, No. 39350.

## Fall River Deportations.

Fall River, Mass.

To International Labor Defense.

Dear Comrades:

I am not going to try and tell you comrades about all the hardships I went through, because there are too many of them since the day when my husband Antonio da Costa was arrested last May here in Fall River—the city of the slaves of the cotton industry and catholicism. The International Labor Defense and all the workers under its banner, who undertook and conducted the fight against the deportation of my husband and his two comrades Diamantino Teixeira and Antonio Alves Pereira, will remember that these boys were persecuted because of their activity against the slavery and because they were active with the group of class conscious Portuguese workers in publishing the workers' paper "A Luta."

Their deportation is now "completed." And I am sending to you comrades, the very first message that I received from my husband. I wish to point out particularly, the very "human" treatment that my husband received during his trip to Portugal. The captain locked them up in a dirty hole—cold as an ice box and refused to serve food. Only thanks to the protest of the passengers on the ship, the captain was compelled to let them out and serve food. The authorities in Portugal, were very prompt in arresting the boys as soon as they landed. They were kept in jail for several days and finally released by efforts of friends and relatives. Their "liberty" in Portugal consist of unemployment and starvation which is the lot of the whole working class there under the capitalist system. I will write more later on.

But at this time I wish to say, that I could overcome and did overcome all my hardships because of the solidarity and loyalty shown to me by you comrades. I

wish to acknowledge the kind contributions—including the Xmas Gift of \$50.00—sent to me by the I. L. D. Friend in need is a friend indeed. And that's what the I. L. D. has been to me. I extend my fraternal greetings and my proletarian thanks to all workers who support the I. L. D. and have supported me through the I. L. D. I am convinced, that the spirit of working class solidarity will help the boys there to continue their good work for the final emancipation of the whole working class. I will always do my bit to help the good work the I. L. D. is doing for people who find themselves in the same desperate situation as I found myself.

With all the best wishes and regards to all members of the I. L. D.,

Fraternally yours,

Mary de Costa.

## Frank Godlasky.

State Prison, Sioux Falls, S. D.

J. P. Cannon,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Fellow Worker and Friend:

Please accept my sincere appreciation and thanks for the Xmas gift sent me by you thru the General Defense Committee of the I. W. W., which I am a member of.

Yours for the O. B. U.

Frank Godlasky.

## Combs Freed.

Moundsville, W. Va.

J. P. Cannon,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade Cannon:

Just a line thanking you for your interest in me and my entire family while I was in prison. Now that I am out I want to remain the same Edgar Combs to you and all the good brothers and sisters throughout the country that came to my aid during my hour of great trouble, and I ask you to please enter in the columns of next month's Defender the following letter to all the readers:

Dear Friends and Comrades, both in and out of Prison:

I have been relieved for one year by the Hon. Howard Gore, governor of the state of West Virginia, through the hard work of my friends in showing the unfairness of my imprisonment. I am again at home with my family who have shown themselves to be exceptions to the rule, and who have stuck to me through thick and thin.

Dear friends, while I have my freedom, I am having a fight yet. It seems as though my past reputation is following me and it is next to impossible for me to get a decent job. I have tried hard and I am not clearing expenses, and the miners' union is unable to aid one of its members who gave up his freedom for them, because they say their funds are too low to aid one that gave his all. Yet they have raised, I see in the

papers, the president's salary from \$8,000 per year to \$12,000; guess it took all their funds for that. I wonder if the said John L. would face the pen for life for the sake of the organization. I wonder.

I asked the organization to loan me enough money to move myself and my family out of the state of W. Va. but, as I said before, Mr. Lewis says that funds are 'too low. Times is hard around here and there are only open shop mines in this neck of the woods and I won't work in this kind of mine. I sure want to get away from this section of the country, but as things are, I am helpless.

I am going to remain loyal to my friends regardless of what happens to me, because I love and have the workers' cause near my heart, and I think that personally they love me, especially those who know about my case, and I want the time to come when I can show by action just where I stand regards the cause. I invite every one everywhere to write me and I assure you one and all that I will give your letter special attention and will answer same giving you my views as a prisoner as well as a freeman on the labor and political question just as I have seen it from both sides of the fence and as unprejudiced as possible. In fact I want to correspond with as many as possible, and I want to write some of the boys who are in prison and I

would like to hear from them.

Brothers and comrades, I am not trying to panhandle anyone, but if there is a local union who wants to help me get my family moved from this state, we will consider it a loan and will return it at our earliest opportunity. I want to add my thanks to Mr. Becker, Miss Algoe, Mrs. Richter, Miss Meyers, for all their encouraging letters and for the aid extended the kiddies.

Thanks to all the locals. Thanks to everyone connected with the I. L. D. and long live the cause and success to all workers, is my wish.

Yours fraternally,  
Edgar Combs,  
405 Baker Ave.,  
Moundsville, W. Va.

## Walla Walla Again.

Walla Walla, Wash.  
International Labor Defense.  
J. P. Cannon, Secretary.  
Friend and Fellow Worker:

Please find enclosed with this letter a receipt for the November \$5 Prison Relief, and many thanks to all for same. I received your ever welcome letter of Dec. 1st inst. and contents carefully noted, and found perfectly satisfactory. I mailed to you November 12th, one box of curios containing one hair belt and sixteen necklaces,

and, or about the same time I wrote you a letter notifying you of same.

Fellow workers Tom Nash, Bill Moudy and Dan Curtin, the remaining C. S. boys, were all released by the meeting of the last board.

With the best wishes to all,  
Yours for industrial freedom,  
(Signed) John Lamb.

## Claude Merritt.

Box 37336, San Quentin, Calif.  
James P. Cannon,  
Chicago, Ill.  
Dear Comrade:

Please convey my thanks and appreciation to the I. L. D. for the check for \$25.

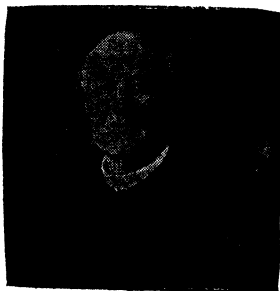
You are wrong when you say "we know the money doesn't amount to much." One dollar means as much to a prisoner as five dollars means to you who think you are not prisoners. Then, we recognized prisoners have no means of income, which causes every dollar to mean a great deal more to us. Of course the spirit in which it is given is the thing, and I assure you the money shows us that the spirit is real and moving towards things brighter.

With the very best of wishes to all the workers who have made the I. L. D. a moving spirit in behalf of the captured, I am

Yours fraternally,  
Claude Merritt.

## Bishop Brown Tour.

**B**ISHOP William Montgomery Brown has just completed a very successful tour of the West under the auspices of the I. L. D. He visited the following cities: Denver, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, San Francisco and nearby places, Portland, Tacoma, Spokane, Van Couver, Minneapolis and St. Paul. Everywhere Comrade Brown was met by large and enthusiastic audiences.



**BISHOP BROWN.**

Lee W. Lang writes from Denver: "While in Denver, Bishop Brown spoke on his heretic ideas to four different audiences. On Friday he spoke at the Unitarian Church, Saturday at the Grace Church Auditorium, Sunday morning he accepted an invitation to fill the pulpit at the Unity Church and Sunday evening he spoke at the New Denver Lyceum. All four lectures were well attended and some of the crowd was chocked by his radical ideas."

J. Baxter, of San Francisco, writes: "Bishop William Montgomery Brown, the heretic, delivered a lecture on "Evolution and Revolution" under the auspices of the Local I. L. D. at California Hall. The place

was crowded with a motley crowd composed of radicals, religious people, newspaper men and the morbid bourgeoisie. 'All capitalist institutions are breaking down' said the Bishop. Speaking of religion, Mr. Brown said 'Religion is humbug, I believe in heaven, but I want it here on earth. I don't want a heaven which I have to die to attain. Banish God from the skies and capitalism from the earth,' he concluded."

## The Pledge Fund.

The elsewhere listed individuals and I. L. D. branches have pledged themselves for a definite sum monthly, to help send \$5 monthly to the class-war prisoners and \$20 to dependents. The pledges run from \$1 to \$5. All pledgers are requested to please send their checks so they reach the national office not later than the 20th of each month. These small amounts represent a friendly voice from the outside to the prisoners and a helping hand to the dependents. Don't fail them. Send your check on time. All other contributions coming to the national office have to be used for legal defense of the many cases we are now conducting.

**Remember the class-war prisoners and their dependents!**

**PITTSBURGH, PA.**—Mike Zaldokas, organizer for the Lithuanian Workers Literary Society, was arrested on February 15 at Wilmerding, Pa. where he was scheduled to speak for the benefit of the Lithuanian Daily paper, Vilnis. He was searched by the police, and not permitted to speak. He was released on \$5,000 bail on February 17. He is under two charges, one for sedition and the other on a deportation for illegal entry into the country. The Pittsburgh International Labor Defense furnished the bond. I. L. D. will defend the case.

**BOSTON, Mass.**—A bill defining the Crime of Criminal Syndicalism and prescribing punishment therefor is now before the Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts.

This bill follows the line of the most vicious Criminal Syndicalism laws now in effect in other states; and if passed, will make even easier the framing of the workers, after the manner of Sacco and Vanzetti, for asserting the right of labor to free speech, assembly and the right to organize. Mere advocacy of doctrines can result in felony punishment, the maximum sentence being ten years' imprisonment and \$5,000 fine or both.

The labor movement, together with liberal elements throughout Massachusetts are strenuously resisting passage of this bill which makes once and for all the Bill of Rights and the U. S. Constitution a completely dead letter so far as the workers are concerned.

**BOSTON DISTRICT I. L. D.**  
announces its

**First Carnival-Bazaar**  
**APRIL 28, 29, 30, 1927**

at

**New International Hall,**  
42 Wenonah St., Roxbury.

The Boston district office of I. L. D. has conducted the Bimba sedition and blasphemy case, the free speech fight at Lawrence, the Fall River deportation case of the three Portuguese anarchists, and the Checker Drivers case of Boston. The proceeds of this bazaar will be used for these necessary legal expenses and also to help the national office.





**BISHOP BROWN.**



# BUILDING THE I.L.D.



Conducted by

Rose Karsner

## With Our Secretaries.

Local New York just completed its big annual bazaar, as we go to press. Report has not yet come in. Plans for summer outdoor affairs are already under way, Secretary Rose Baron writes.

Secretary Robert Zelms of the New England Division has arranged for their First Annual Carnival-Bazaar for April 28, 29 and 30, and expects good results. Comrade Zelms is getting out a local monthly bulletin. Others should do this too.

Pittsburgh Local is busily engaged raising funds for the defense of local press. Just at present they are defending a group of South Slavic workers at Woodlawn and Lithuanian worker at Wilmerding. The South Slavic Section and the Lithuanian Section of the I. L. D. have undertaken to help by making a national campaign in behalf of the workers of their respective language.

The secretary of Local Philadelphia, John Lyman, writes: "The local conference of I. L. D. decided at its last meeting to have an organization drive in the first week of April." This is a splendid idea, and we hope that other locals will follow the example.

Local Canton, whose secretary Carl Guilod is always alert and full of plans for I. L. D. activities, has been conducting a campaign for Labor Defender subscriptions and renewals. Within one week he sent in more than 30. Surely larger cities can do at least as well if the effort is made.

The women of Local Detroit have just held a very successful bazaar. Full report or remittance has not yet come in, but Secretary Lambkin writes that the net profit will come to over \$500. This local is now defending the deportation case of a Finnish comrade and his wife.

Local Lake County, Indiana, held a very successful bazaar several weeks ago, reports Comrade Borisoff, secretary, at which Bishop William Montgomery Brown spoke. It netted over \$500 for the I. L. D. and the unsold articles were donated to the Chicago bazaar. The Bulgarian branch of Gary also ran a successful affair with William F. Dunne as the speaker. A check for \$73.90 was sent to the national office by Secretary Pavlof of this branch.

Locals Salt Lake City and Denver held good Brown meetings though they did not net much in dollars and cent.

Local Omaha, Neb., held a very fine mass meeting with Ralph Chaplin as the speaker. Secretary William Russ writes that as a result of this meeting, many new members joined the I. L. D. and the whole morale of the local was greatly stimulated.

From Local Los Angeles came the big surprise of the month. A check for \$500 was sent to the national office by airmail immediately after the Bishop Brown meeting with a note from Secretary Frank Spector "more coming later." Comrade Spector works eight to nine hours daily for

### Contributions to the Pledge Fund.

Estella Tarkoff, Boulder, Col.  
Mrs. A. Kratofil, Norwalk, Ohio.  
Joseph Wilson, Long Beach, Wash.  
Albert Gerling, Madrid, Iowa.  
The Siegel Family, Ontario, Calif.  
Sophie Katz, Sanatorium, Colo.  
Jens Jenson, Bridgeport, Conn.  
Rae Berenbaum, Denver, Colo.  
R. Bokolos, Zeigler, Ill.  
Abraham Cronbach, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Alex Drajinik, Jr., Gary, Ind.  
Louis A. Barnett, Newark, N. J.  
A. N. Routhier, Detroit, Mich.  
Anna Hammer, Roslindale, Mass.  
Mike Paparelli, New York City.  
I. E. Ferguson, Chicago.

### I. L. D. BRANCHES.

#### Local Denver.

#### Local Arden.

#### Local Chicago:

Barnett Branch.  
Billings Branch.  
Bulgarian Branch.  
Hungarian Branch.  
Cicero International Branch.  
Irving Park English Branch.  
Italian Branch.  
Northwest Jewish Branch.  
Karl Marx Branch.  
Lettish Branch.  
South Slavic Branch.  
Ukrainian Branch.

#### Local Boston:

Malden Branch.  
Roxbury Lettish Branch.  
Boston Lettish Branch.  
Roxbury Jewish Branch.

#### Local Detroit:

Anti-Fascist Branch.  
Greek Branch.  
Hungarian Branch.  
Tom Mooney Branch.  
Lithuanian Branch.  
No. Ladies' Prog. Society Branch.  
Painters' Branch.  
South Slavic Branch.  
Scandinavian Branch.  
Women's Branch I. L. D.  
Women's Educational Circle.

#### Local Newberry, Mich.

#### Local Passaic.

#### Local Perth Amboy.

#### Local Avella.

#### Local Canton.

#### Local New York:

Brownsville English Branch.  
German Yorkville Branch.  
Lithuanian Brooklyn Branch.  
Richmond German Branch.

#### Local Cleveland:

Slovak Branch.  
West Side Branch.  
Ukrainian Branch.

#### Local Philadelphia:

Kensington Branch.  
Lithuanian Branch.

#### Local Seattle:

English Branch.  
Esthonian and Finnish Branch.  
Women's Educational League.

his living, but in spite of this was able to prepare for the Brown meetings in such a manner that they were not only morally but also financially successful.

Credit is of course due to the committee, which cooperates with Comrade Spector, for making such a success possible. This is true of all locals. A secretary with initiative must have a good cooperating committee in order to broaden the defense work and draw into our ranks workers of varying shades of political and industrial opinions.

**P**AUL CROUCH, who together with Walter Trumbull, was court-martialed at Military Barracks in Hawaii for organizing a Young Communist League in the U. S.

army, will complete his three-year sentence and be due for release on June 1 of this year. These rebel soldier boys were originally given forty and twenty-six years respectively. Due to the storm of protest which went up among the American workers as a result of the campaign which the Civil Liberties Union and the International Labor Defense made, these sentences were later reduced to three years and one year. They were then transferred to Alcatraz Barracks. Upon completion of his one year, Trumbull toured the country under the auspices of the I. L. D.

Crouch comes of American stock from the conservative old South—North Carolina. Because he took seriously the doctrines of "freedom" and "democracy" which he and his forefathers were taught in American schools, he was imprisoned for three years.

The I. L. D. plans to tour Crouch eastward toward his home as soon as he is released. On several occasions Paul Crouch was offered parole if he would "sign on the dotted line" promising to be "good." He preferred the hell of prison life to compromising his principles, though he knew that his aged parents were both sick and needed him very much. And now, the workers, with whom he cast his lot, will welcome him back into the ranks, and arrange receptions for his return.

## Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

**E**LIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, national chairman of the I. L. D., took sick while on a cross-country tour for the organization. She is still confined to bed at Portland where she is under constant doctor's care. We are informed by Dr. M. Equi that Comrade Flynn will have to remain under careful attention for another two months or so.

Those of us who are acquainted with Comrade Flynn's activities in the labor movement for the past twenty years recognize what a great loss her absence is. We are glad, however, that she is being well cared for and will soon be able to return fully recovered. Those wishing to write to Comrade Flynn may address their letters care of the national office and they will be forwarded.

# DEFEND PASSAIC!

YOU HAVE HELPED THE  
PASSAIC STRIKERS  
WIN  
BY FEEDING THEM.



**HELP KEEP THEM OUT OF PRISON!**

Every strike, no matter how successful, has its casualties. Some of the most heroic and militant workers are beaten and imprisoned. The Passaic story is full of such chapters.

The leaders of the Passaic strike were arrested and released on bail as high as \$30,000. Their cases are to come to trial.

Nine of the picketing workers are behind prison bars at present. Three of them are serving three-year sentences and six are still in jail awaiting trial. They all have wives and children who need their support.

The I. L. D. is sending \$5 monthly to each of these men. Their dependents should get \$20 monthly.

You have helped feed Passaic. You have done much for the Passaic strikers. You have made it possible for them to continue the fierce battle. But you have not done as much as the Passaic strikers have done. They have sacrificed much for the labor movement. Stand by them to the end.

# HELP DEFEND PASSAIC!

**SIGN  
TODAY!**

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE,  
23 South Lincoln St., Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed please find \$..... to help defend Passaic strikers. I wish to contribute monthly \$..... toward the Pledge Fund. Please send me the name and address of one of the Passaic defendants or their dependents with whom I may correspond.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... STATE .....