

# LABOR DEFENDER

SEPT. 1929

10¢



MOBILIZE *TO* FREE  
THE GASTONIA PRISONERS

SIXTEEN STRIKERS AND ORGANIZERS  
OF THE NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION,  
FACE DEATH AND LONG IMPRISONMENT!

DEFEAT THE BOSSES CONSPIRACY  
TO PREVENT ORGANIZING THE SOUTH  
DEFEND THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE!



## FIRST CLASH IN THE MILL BARONS' COURT IN GASTONIA JULY 29



The trial of the Gastonia mill strikers and National Textile Workers Union Organizers opens in Gastonia. During this preliminary trial, Judge Barnhill, granted a change of venue to Mecklenberg County, 20 miles away, where prejudice against the prisoners is just as viciously worked up by the mill barons. 1. The Defense attorneys; 2. the defendants; 3. Judge Barnhill; 4. Where the prosecution attorneys are supposed to sit. There are 15 of them altogether, the most able defenders of private pillage in the state. 5. Callie McGinnis, a 72 year old woman, who was choked and beaten by the Gastonia police on June 7.



# Who Are the Gastonia Prisoners?

## FRED BEAL

Fred Beal was born in Lawrence, Mass., in 1896, and at the age of 14 went to work in a textile mill in Lawrence, as a bobbin boy at the wage of \$4.48 for a 56 hour week. He was an active strikers in the great Lawrence textile strike of 1912. He was drafted into the army and during the Lawrence strike in 1919 joined the picket line in uniform. He was a leader in the Lawrence strike of 1922, joined the Socialist Party during the strike, and after it was over became a member of the executive board of the One Big Union and secretary of the Socialist Party local. In 1923 Beal took a leading part in the Dover, New Hampshire, strike. When he was arrested 5,000 workers picketed the jail and the militia dispersed the workers with threatening machine guns.

At this time he became interested in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. He soon lost faith in the Socialist Party and joined the Communist Party. After becoming secretary of the One Big Union he organized the Lawrence United Front Committee in 1925. In 1926 Beal played a leading role in the New Bedford Strike. Beal was arrested seven times during this struggle and spent one month in jail with Murdock, also a leading organizer of the Textile Mill Committee.

In September, 1928 Beal took part in the formation of the National Textile Workers Union, being elected on its executive committee. He was made the Southern District organizer and started his work in Charlotte in December, 1928. He organized a local of the union in Gastonia and the membership voted the historic strike when union members were fired from the Loray mill. He was the leading spirit in the hard-fought strike.

## ROBERT ALLEN

Robert Allen was born in Rhodies, Catawba County, North Carolina, on March 19, 1903. When he was 6 years old his family moved to West Hickory and when his father got a job as an overseer in an East Hickory Mill the family moved there two years later. At the age of 11, he started school and went for 6 years, when he began to work in the mills. When the world war broke out Allen volunteered but was rejected because he was too young. Later he enlisted. When discharged from the army, he found a job on a railroad in Virginia. He was laid off, came to Gastonia and worked in the Ozark mill until the strike was called in April.

*The lives and activity of the sixteen men and women—union organizers and textile strikers—who are being tried for murder in Charlotte, N. C.*



VERA BUCH, SOPHIE MELVIN AND AMY SCHECHTER

## VERA BUCH

Vera Buch was born in Forestville, Connecticut, in 1897, of a workingclass family. Her father was of German descent, while her mother's people trace their ancestry back to the Pilgrims. At the age of four her family moved to New York City where they suffered extreme poverty. "My recollections of my childhood are all of unceasing struggle against stark poverty," she writes.

When 18 years old she was sent to a sanitarium with tuberculosis. On her return to New York she joined the Socialist Party, but was soon too far "left" to stay in it. After working in the mills in northern New Jersey, she returned to New York in 1925, where she soon joined the Communist Party and became active in the labor movement.

She was active in the Passaic strike of 1926, and worked as a labor organizer in the anthracite region, in Philadelphia and Detroit and helped in the organization of the National Miner's Union and the National Textile Workers' Union. She was a member of the New York City executive of the latter union and went down to help Beal organize in Gaston County.

## J. C. HEFFNER

Heffner was born May 1, 1912 at Catawaga County, North Carolina. His father was a mill worker. He went to school until he was 14, when he began work in the Regan Mill in Bessemer City, as a doffer in the twisting room. After a year here he went to work in the Arlington mill and remained there about 2 years.

"Shortly after the strike in the Loray Mill began in April I got a job there. But I did not want to scab so I went around and joined the union."

## AMY SCHECHTER

Amy Schechter was born in Cambridge, England and was brought to the United States when she was 9 years old. She has worked as a proof-reader, translator and labor journalist. She worked with the Labor Research Bureau, London, England, 1920-21 and joined the British Communist Party in 1920, the Communist Party of the U. S. A. in 1921. During the mine strike of 1927-28 she was an organizer for the Save-the-Union Committee in Central Pennsylvania and later in the same strike she was a member of the Miners' Relief Committee in Pittsburgh. During the New Bedford and Fall River textile strikes in 1928 she was the publicity agent for the National Textile Workers' Union. She was sent by the Workers' International Relief to direct relief activities in Gastonia as soon as the strike broke out.

## SOPHIE MELVIN

"I was born in New York City in 1910. I attended high school for one year. I went to work at the age of 14 in a millinery factory where I earned \$10 a week as a learner. Later I worked in Woolworth's 12 hours a day, earning \$10.80 a week, at the same time attending a business school in the evening where I learned stenography and typewriting and got a job in an office.

"At the age of 14 I joined the young pioneers of America. In 1926 I was sent by the Young Pioneers to do organization work among the children of the textile strikers of Passaic. In 1928 I was the organizer of the Children's Miners Relief Committee of New York.

"I came to Gastonia shortly before the fatal raid to organize the children to help in the conduct of the strike."

## LOUIS MACLAUGHLIN

One of the most active of the strikers is Louis MacLaughlin. He was born into a family of mill workers, in 1906, in Atlanta, Ga. When he was thirteen years old he went to work as a sweeper in the Augusta Cotton Mills. Three years later he came to Gastonia—in 1928. He worked for the Manville-Jenckes Co. both in their High Shoals and Loray Mills. He was working at the Loray mill when the strike was called.

"I walked out with the rest and was always ready to do my share to help win the strike. I am with them and that's why I'm in jail today."





VERA BUCH, SOPHIE MELVIN AND AMY SCHECHTER



N. F. GIBSON

Gibson was born into a poor farmer's family near Waynesville, Haywood County, N. C. His childhood days were spent on the farm and he never had a chance to get an education. When he was ten years old he and his father went to work in a mill at Clifton, S. C. When he was 11 years old his father died, leaving 11 children, several of them married.

He has traveled thruout the South working in about 45 mills in five states. When the war broke out he volunteered, saw service on the battlefield and was wounded by shrapnel. After being discharged from the army he went to the government hospital at Greenville, S. C., where he was told he had T. B. He remained in the hospital 118 days, after which he went back to the mills in Gastonia.

"I have worked in the American mills, Osage, Bamble, Loray and High Shoals mills. When the strike was called I was working in the Saxton mills in Spartansburg, South Carolina. I came back to Gastonia several weeks later and went to the Loray mill, but finding that a strike was on I joined the union and decided not to go to work. I stayed out and did everything I could to help the union and the strikers."

RUSSELL KNIGHT

Russell Knight was born 24 years ago in Charlotte, N. C. His parents were textile mill workers in Charlotte and later in Greensboro, N. C. where Knight finished the elementary grades. He went to work in the mills and took a correspondence school education. He was greatly moved by the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. "It dawned upon me," he writes, "that this outrage was a grave injustice to the whole workingclass."

He participated in his first strike while on the medicine show. After working in Draper, N. C. and New Bedford, Mass., he returned to work in a mill in Gibsonville and participated in his second strike. After working on a farm for a while, he came to Gastonia and got a job in the Loray Mill.

"I was there about three



MILL WORKER'S FAMILY IN GASTONIA

months when the N.T.W.U. called the strike. Fred Beal and myself and others went to Elizabethton where the U.T.W. had sold out the strikers, to expose the fakers. We were all arrested but released. We came back to Gastonia and the next day the hirelings of the bosses made a raid on our headquarter.s I was taken in with 71 others in the police dragnet."

NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA  
GASTONIA LOCALS

May 16, 1929

Max Gardner  
Governor of the State of North Carolina  
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Sir:

The textile strikers of Gastonia are building with their own hands new union headquarters to take the place of the one demolished by thugs, while the state militiamen were looking on. The new building is about to be finished and the dedication will take place next Saturday evening, May 18th before thousands of workers.

It is rumored around Gastonia that enemies of the workers, inspired by the mill owners, are plotting to wreck our new headquarters within three days after completion.

The strike committee took the matter up today and decided that it is useless to expect the one-sided Maneville-Jenckes law to protect the life and property of the many striking textile workers of Gastonia. Every striker is determined to defend the new union headquarters at all costs.

Very truly yours,  
*Roy Stuard*

chairman of the strike committee  
LETTER TO GOV. GARDNER FROM GASTONIA STRIKE COMMITTEE

CLARENCE MILLER

Clarence Miller war born in New York City in 1906. He early became acquainted with socialist literature and was a member of the Young People's Socialist League. He has worked in an iron foundry, in a cigarette factory, ship yard, as a cement mixer, silk worker and plumber's helper. Miller was active in the Paterson silk strike in 1924, was a youth organizer in the Passaic strike and of the United Front Committee of Textile Workers in Connecticut. He was president of the American Association of Plumbers Helpers, which he led in organizing and which had 4,000 members in New York City. He has been a member of the National Executive Committee of the Young Communist League for several years, and was in charge of the Philadelphia district of the League for a year. He has often been arrested for his activity in the labor movement, and during the Passaic strike was under \$10,000 bail. He served a sentence in Occagran, Va. for participating in a demonstration demanding the release of John Porter. He came to Gastonia about the middle of May to organize the young workers.

K. O. BYERS

Byers was born on a farm near Cliffside, Rutherford County, North Carolina, Nov. 23, 1909. His father was born on the same farm and worked it until Byers was 13 years old, when the family moved to Gaffney, S. C. Son and father both worked side by side for the Gaffney Manufacturing Co., where they averaged \$16 per week. He worked in various textile mills and then found work with the Phoenix Utility Co. which was erecting a power line between Philadelphia and Wilkes Barre. After two years he returned to work in the Loray mill.

He walked out when the strike was called in April and was one of the most active strike leaders. He was arrested after the first police raid on the Union headquarters and after his release did Union organization work in Lexington. He was arrested again while distributing leaflets in Elizabethton. Byers was arrested together with Beal in Spartansburg after the raid on the camp in Gastonia and charged with murder.





MILL WORKER'S FAMILY IN GASTONIA



# Charlotte Press as Judge and Jury

By BILL DUNNE

THE press of Mecklenburg County, N. C., following the change of venue from Gaston County, has taken up the burden of creating prejudice and inflaming public opinion against Fred Beal, Russell Knight, Clarence Miller, Robert Allen, K. O. Byers, W. M. McGinnis, Louis McLaughlin, George Carter, Joseph Harrison, J. C. Heffner, N. F. Gibson, K. W. Hendricks, Delmar Hampton, organizers and members of the N.T.W.U. whom the Manville-Jenckes and associated textile mill interests,

backed by Andy Mellon's aluminum and water power trust, are trying to send to the electric chair for defending their lives and union headquarters against the armed raid by police and thugs on the night of June 7 in the course of which chief of police Adderholt of Gastonia was killed.

For a period of two weeks before the change of venue, the mill owners' press devoted most of its editorial efforts to an attempt to prove that these workers were to be tried "only for murder". In a hundred editorials it was denied vehemently that any other issues would enter into the case than that of "who killed the chief of police."

The reason for this line of comment was the pressure of international Labor Defense publicity and organization, and the damning facts which even the capitalist press could not conceal relative to the weeks of jailings, beatings and general terrorism conducted against the strikers, such as the destruction of N.T.W.U. headquarters on April 18th by a masked mob and the utter impossibility of concealing the fact that the police for no reason other than to carry out the general terrorist program of Manville-Jenckes and the associated capitalists and their government, had deliberately planned to raid the N.T.W.U. headquarters again on the night of June 7th and drive the organizers and strikers out of town—and to do everything necessary in the way of violence to carry out this plan.

The prosecution feared to continue its line of railroading the defendants on the basis of their political and religious beliefs and union activities. Even the issue of Communism and the fact that a number of the defendants are Communists was played down. *The class issues had become too clear.*

But since the trial has been moved to Mecklenburg County, the Charlotte press is endeavoring to outdo the Gastonia Gazette in pouring forth its venom upon the jailed workers. Even the attorneys employed by the International Labor Defense are a subject of attack in the editorial columns of the Charlotte press. In the news columns the same line is followed.

For instance, the Charlotte News for



THE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL RELIEF TENT COLONY IN GASTONIA

Sunday, August 11th in a news article entitled "Expect Sensations in Gaston Murder Trial" said: "*The State has not yet made public the numerous facts which, interlinked, it proposes to make into an unbroken chain by which thirteen men will be sent to the electric chair, three women will be sent to the penitentiary for second degree murder and seven others are to be convicted of assault with intent to kill.*"

The above is certainly a very definite statement of the intentions of the prosecution and leaves no doubt that *the death penalty is sought for thirteen workers—union organizers and members—by the mill owners, their lawyers and their courts.* The Charlotte Observer is doing its best to aid the prosecution attain its objective. Editorially, in its issue of August 11, it describes a meeting in Washington, D. C. at which Vera Bush and Amy Schechter, two of the three women defendants recently released on \$5,000 bail, spoke. The Observer characterizes the statements made by the speakers as "illustrating the frenzied nature of Communistic propaganda our people have to combat." The Observer says that the speakers "told a harrowing story of beatings and bayonetting of men, women and children in Gaston County."

The Observer says: "No such conditions as described exist or have existed in this part of the country. There has been no 'bayonetting' of either men, women or children in Gastonia and the only 'cold blooded massacre' planned was that in which the chief of police fell victim to the fire from the Communists' armed colony. A 'humble shack' was torn down, but it is a question yet debated if that was not the work of the Communist leaders, themselves, as a desperate resort to develop sympathy for

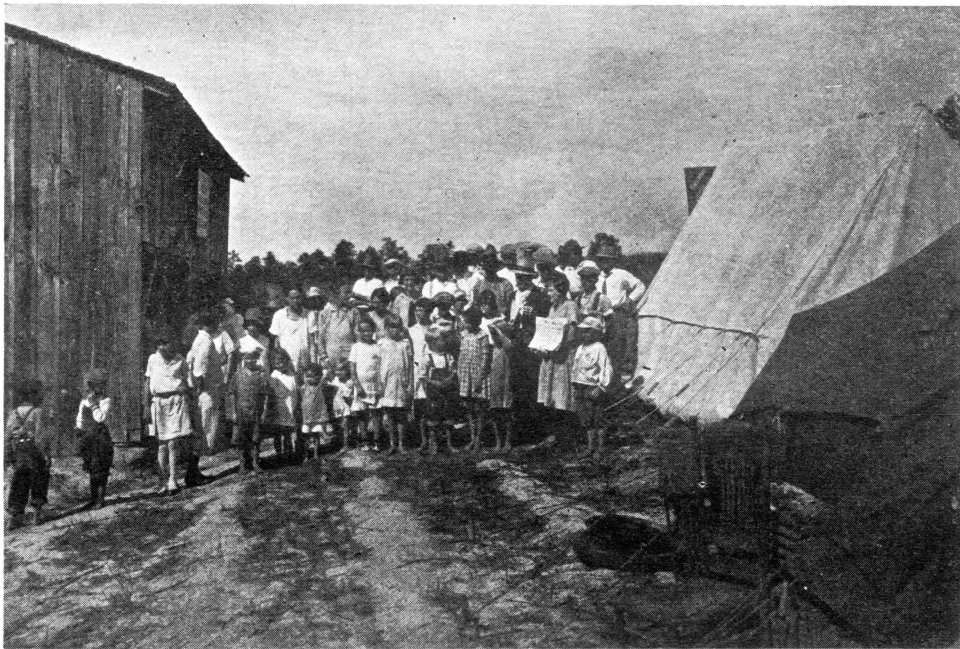
a cause that had been lost. The tales of women working long hours at starvation wages has its answer in the voluntary action of the mill managements in Gaston County in shortening hours and increasing pay".

*There is a lie in every line of the above statement—vicious, murderous lies intended to aid in railroading the organizers and members of the N. T.W.U. to the electric chair and to the penitentiary as the State has announced it intends to do.*

We will deal here with the last lie first: the statement

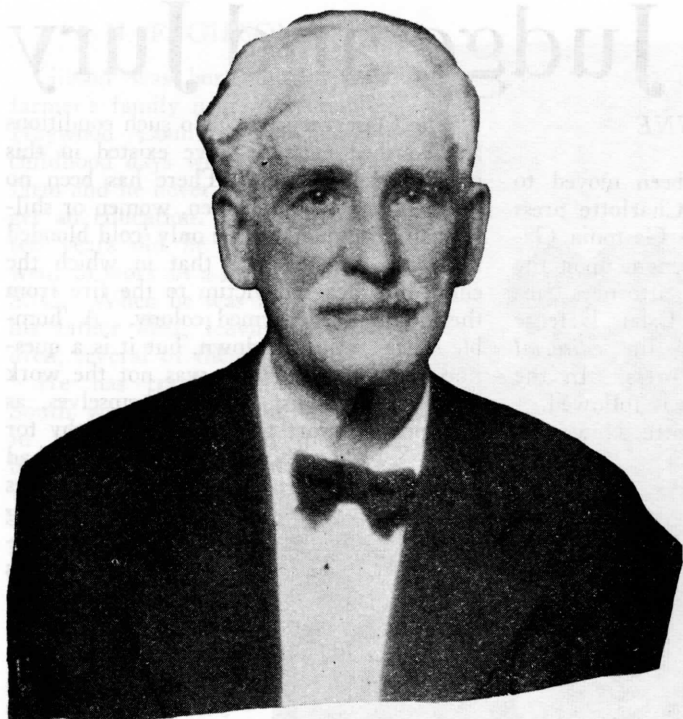
relative to the "voluntary action of the mill managements in Gaston County in shortening hours and increasing pay." To anyone with the slightest knowledge of social forces, it is clear as day that the five months of organization work, of strikes, of picketing by the National Textile Workers Union and the collection and distribution of relief to striking, blacklisted and evicted workers, housing them and feeding them by the Workers International Relief, the extension of the organization work of the union to the entire textile industry marked by the Bessemer City Conference on July 28th, and the intensive preparations for the Charlotte conference on October 12th and 13th to lay the basis for a wide general movement of struggle against the stretch-out, for higher wages, for better conditions and the 8-hour day in the textile industry, the rallying of thousands of workers to the defense of the Gastonia defendants through the activities of the International Labor Defense, have forced the mill owners to reduce working hours and prevented a cut in wages.

There is nothing "voluntary" about this action of the mill owners. Thirteen union men face the electric chair and ten other working men and women, all members and



THE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL RELIEF TENT COLONY IN GASTONIA





WILLIAM C. BEAL, FATHER OF FRED BEAL A WORKER AND FIGHTER, TOO.

organizers of the N.T.W.U., face long prison terms because they led the struggle against these same mill owners, whose press now howls loudly about "voluntary" concessions.

If the mill owners and heir government have their way, as they, Shylocklike, now demand, these "voluntary" concessions will be paid for by, and christened in, the blood of thirteen working men.

No bayonettings in Gastonia during the Loray mill strike? *Ask the workers whose bayonet wounds have not yet healed.*

The Charlotte Observer even goes so far as to accuse the strikers and organizers of planning a "cold blooded massacre."

This is farther than even the Gastonia Gazette has dared to go in its most blood-thirsty moments.

The Charlotte News serves the same class. It quotes approvingly in its issue of August 11, the Manufacturers' Record as saying: "The recent trouble in Gastonia is only a faint foreshadowing of what will follow if Southern people will permit the same agitators who were responsible for this trouble to get a foothold anywhere else."

To conduct a struggle which shortens the hours of labor, raises the wages and consequently the whole living standard of the workers, who are the overwhelming majority of the population in all industrial communities, is something to be condemned. The thing to do in the opinion of the editorial servitors of the bosses is to send workers who dare to fight for their class and who refuse to be bought by the bosses, to the electric chair.

A "fair" trial? The Mecklenburg County press in the last few days has proved to the hilt the contention made in the first days of the Gastonia case by the International Labor Defense, that the fairness of

the courts is *fairness for the class which they represent*—the wealth owning class.

The class issues in this case cannot be submerged.

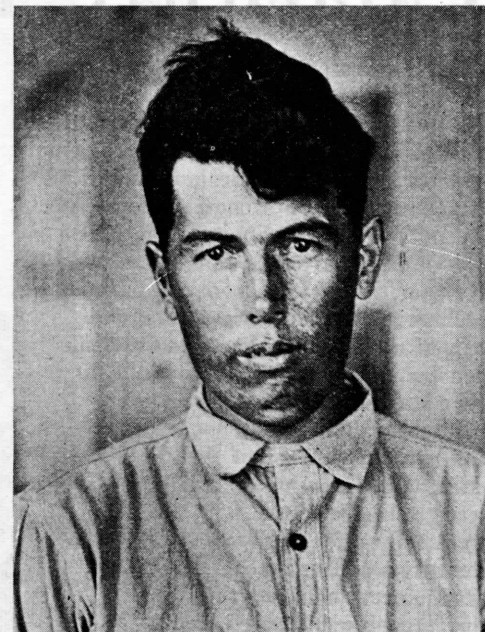
Some of the so-called "liberal" friends of the defendants have professed alarm lest the I.L.D. allow its publicity and mass agitational and organizational work to overshadow the *legal* defense. There is no need for alarm. On the contrary, the only guarantee for the safety of the working men and women to be tried in Mecklenburg County for activities in one of the historic labor struggles in the United States, is, has been and will continue to be the statement to as many workers as can be reached of the clear class

issues in the case. The money for the defense comes from the hard earned dollars of working men and women. Trade Unions, workers' fraternal and benefit societies, unorganized workers, cooperative societies, etc. support these members of the N.T.W.U. because they realize that the whole question of the right to organize, of the right to strike and picket, of the right to organize for self-defense against the armed mercenaries of the bosses and the bosses' government, is involved.

It is on this basis that the I.L.D. appeals to the working men and women of the United States. Its appeal has been successful and the response increases by leaps and bounds.

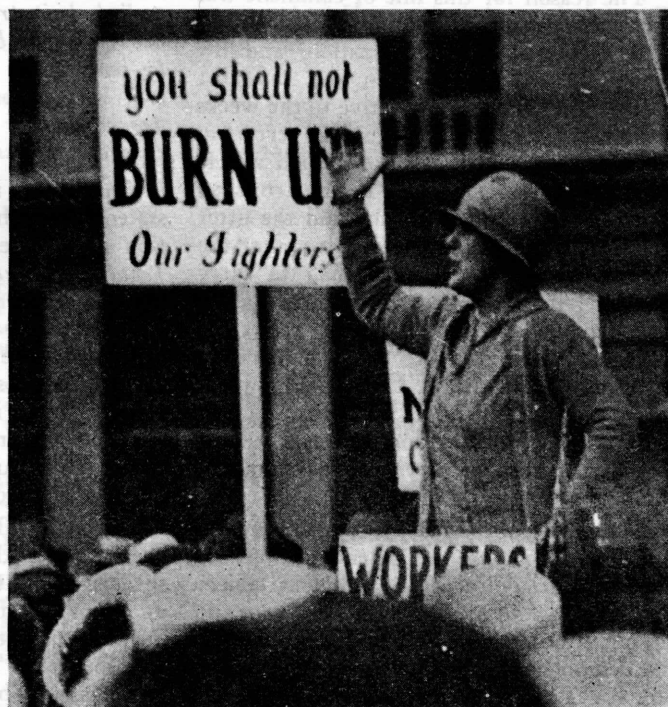
The International Labor Defense, in the event of the acquittal of all of the workers who face the electric chair and long prison terms, *will consider that one of the greatest victories in American labor history has been won.* The acquittal of these workers means the organization of a powerful, fighting industrial union in the textile industry of both the North and the South, a definite check to reaction.

In the event the State succeeds in its plans to convict these workers and to sentence them to the electric chair and to long prison terms, the International Labor Defense will consider this a temporary defeat, but will increase a hundred-fold its efforts to build a mass movement that will save the lives of these workers.



GEORGE CARTER

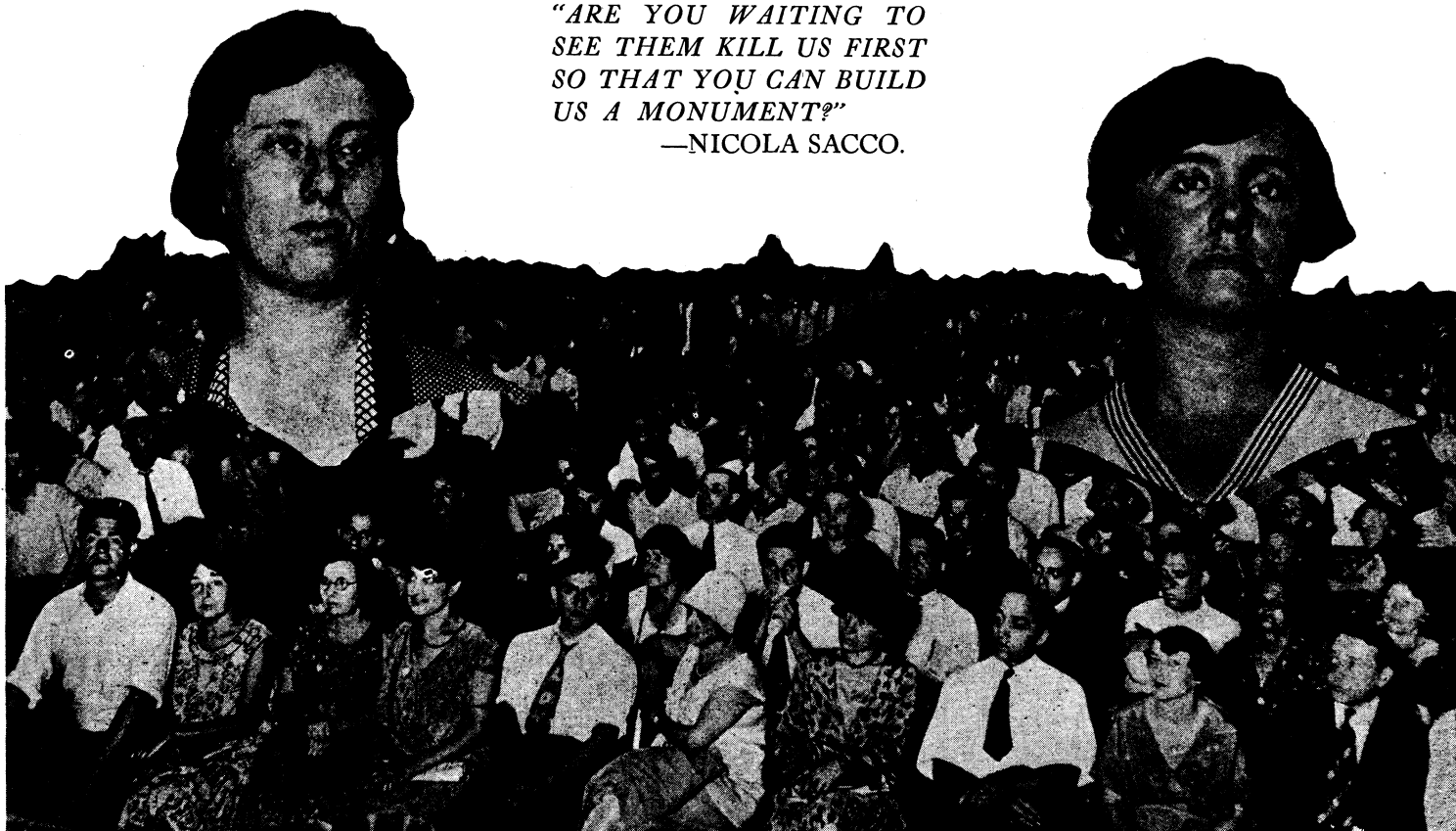
George Carter was born at Mizpah, Atlantic County, New Jersey, on April 10, 1906. His father was a landscape gardener and forester. In 1923, he left high school while in the second year and worked for his father for about 18 months. He has worked as a section hand, on subway construction, in an auto plant, as a gardener, and in a textile mill. He worked for a time in the Irving Worsted Mill in Chester and joined the National Textile Workers Union. He came south as a union worker when the strike broke out and was an active fighter throughout. He was arrested after the raid on the worker's camp in Gastonia and charged with the murder of the police chief.



A DEFENSE MEETING IN GASTONIA, N. C.

*"ARE YOU WAITING TO  
SEE THEM KILL US FIRST  
SO THAT YOU CAN BUILD  
US A MONUMENT?"*

—NICOLA SACCO.



MASS MEETING GREETS AMY SCHECHTER AND VERA BUCH IN NEW YORK CITY.

## A CALL TO ACTION

*"IT IS FOR YOU TO  
GIVE YOUR ANSWER!"*

"We say, if it should happen that things go badly through this coming month, and if we're not strong enough to defeat the frame-up, and if it is necessary for us to pay the penalty for the fight, we will pay it. We are ready.

"But it is for you to give your answer. It is for you to say: 'We must not pay the penalty.' We want to be free. We want our lives to give to the service of the working-class. It is up to you to show by your strength that the State of North Carolina dare not convict us. It is up to you to say that there shall not be one electrocution, not one prison sentence, not one day or week in prison for any of the defendants."

—From the speech by Vera Buch at a mass meeting in New York City.

### A WARNING!

"As I wrote you before I repeat today, only an international clamor—a protest—can free us. And yet, while we are so near the tomb, your letter amazes me with its unwarranted optimism..."

"How you are deluded! This is not even common sense coming from you. I would say nothing if such talk came from a man in the moon, but from you, who are also in the struggle for liberty, this is too much. Do you know the ends to which the defenders of this decrepit old society will go? Under the circumstances it pains me to see such blind optimism in a comrade. Are you waiting to see them kill us first so that you can build us a monument?"

—From a letter of Nicola Sacco to a friend of his just before his death.

*"WE NEED FIGHTERS  
TODAY NOT  
MARTYRS"*

"We have too many workingclass martyrs today. Too many Mooneys in jail. We need fighters today, not martyrs. We do not need mass demonstrations at the funeral of these Gastonia workers. We need mass demonstrations now to free these workers. And, Comrades, we do not need splendid corpses for the revolutionary movement today. We need these workers and comrades alive and free, to carry on the fight and organize the South."

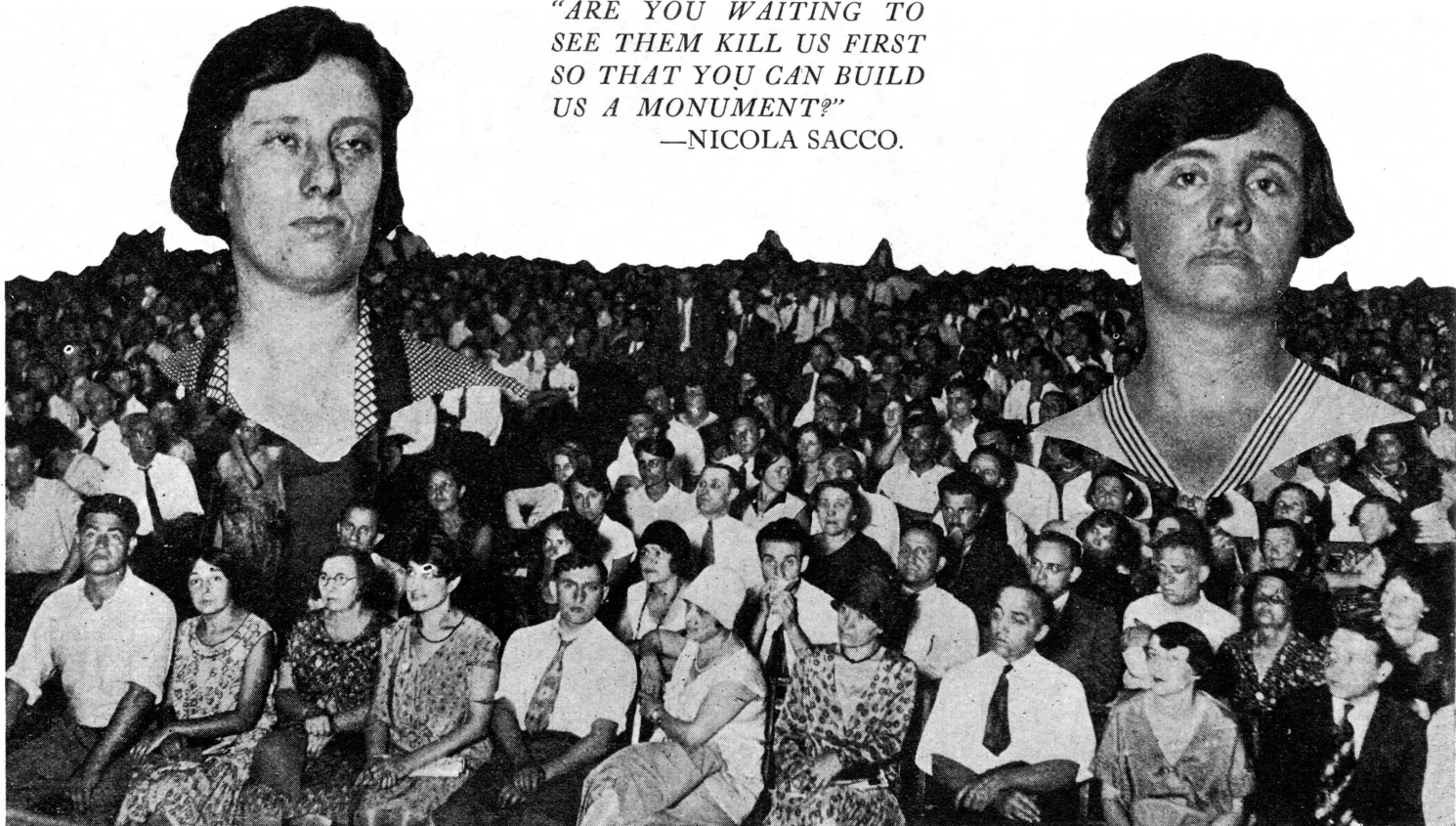
—From the speech of Amy Schechter at a mass meeting in New York City.

**LIBERATE OUR IMPRISONED GASTONIA FIGHTERS NOW!**



*"ARE YOU WAITING TO  
SEE THEM KILL US FIRST  
SO THAT YOU CAN BUILD  
US A MONUMENT?"*

—NICOLA SACCO.



MASS MEETING GREETS AMY SCHECHTER AND VERA BUCH IN NEW YORK CITY.

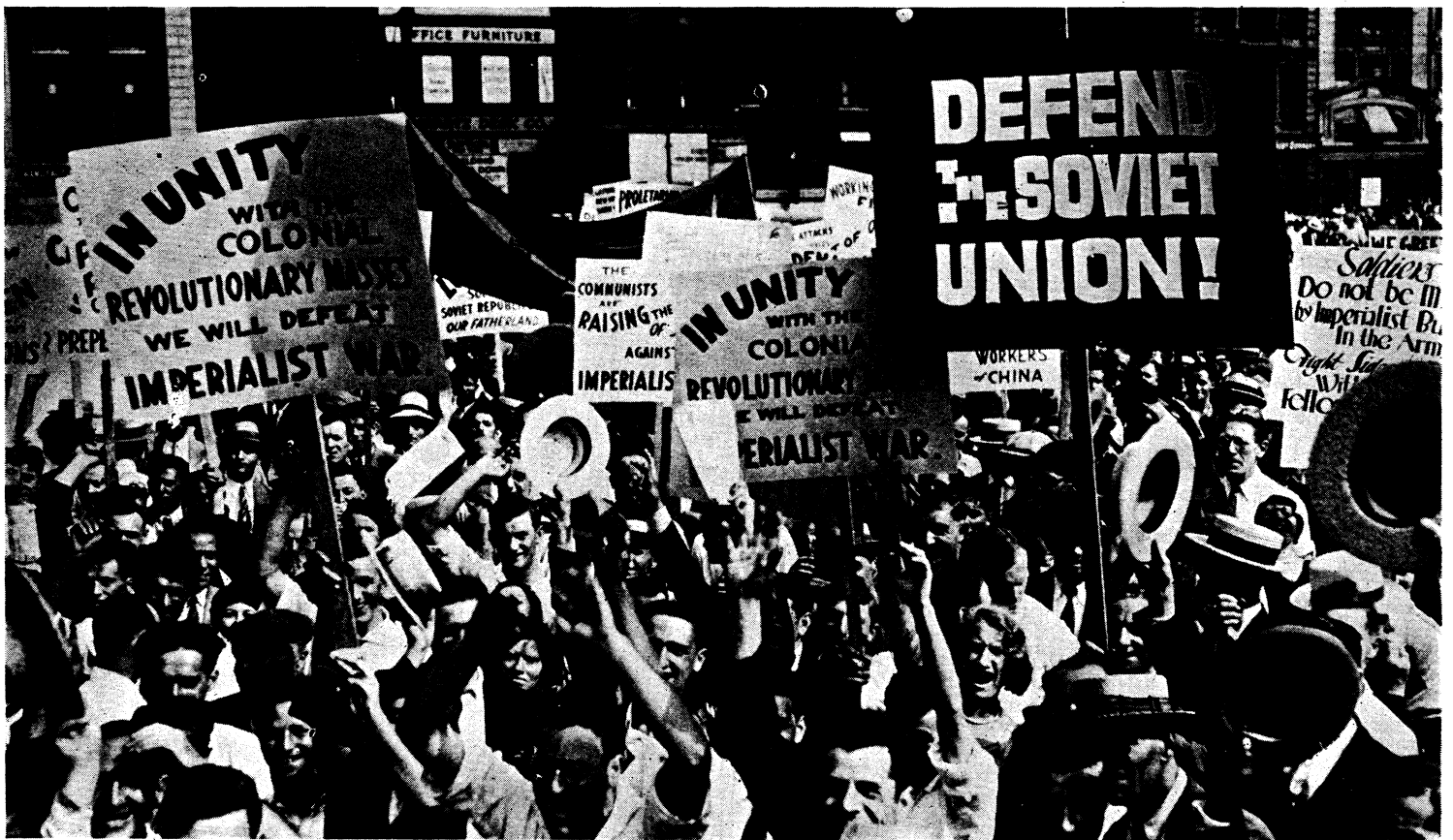


Photo Int'l.

NEW YORK LABOR DEMONSTRATES AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR AND FOR DEFENSE OF SOVIET UNION.

# 15th World War Anniversary

By J. LOUIS ENGDAHL

**L**ENIN declared that, "One of the questions which we must unceasingly stress to the workers is that they must never forget the imperialist war (1914-1918)". Labor showed on August First, the globe over, that it had not forgotten the world slaughter on its Fifteenth Anniversary. The workers also revealed their readiness to struggle for the defeat of the threatening imperialist attack directed against the Union of Soviet Republics.

The International Labor Defense played an important role in the preparation for "August First", the International Red Day Against Imperialist War. Its members battled everywhere, in the front ranks, against the ferocious police offensive that sought to gag and strangle this militant working class protest against imperialist war. It was also the I.L.D. that fought for the workers arrested in large numbers, helping to put the warmakers on trial in their own courts.

Every year there will be an "August First" on which new masses of workers must be drawn into the orbit of anti-imperialist struggle. The experiences this year, carrying with them many lessons, must prove the stepping stones to greater achievements in the future.

August First, 1929, was not lacking in proving the growing militancy of the American working class, that did not cringe before police clubs and guns, that joined

everywhere in great demonstrations, that sounded loud over the land the demand, "Down with imperialist war!" To speak of Boston and Chicago, New York and Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Milwaukee, is to record only a few of the great population centers where labor came out into the streets, heavily patrolled by the Hessians of Yankee imperialism. The smaller kingdoms of industrial capital, like Hammond and Bicknell in Indiana; Waukegan and Rock Island in Illinois; McKeesport and Kensington, Pennsylvania, also proved militant centers of resistance to imperialist war. These are important centers of the steel, coal and metal industries.

Delegates of the International Labor Defense joined in the August First Conferences wherever they were arranged to carry on the work of preparation. At the International Harvester Plant in Chicago the workers remained away from their jobs for some time after the noon-hour whistle had summoned them back to their tasks. They were too busy rescuing "August First" mobilizers from the clutches of the police.

Similarly on "August First" itself. Three thousand workers at the McKeesport Steel Mills in Western Pennsylvania joined in an "August First" noonday demonstration. McKeesport has been the scene of many historic struggles in the steel industry.

The aluminum plant owned by "Andy" Mellon, secretary of the treasury in the Hoover government, located at Kensington, Pa., saw an anti-war demonstration of 1,000 workers who paraded in front of the police station to which four arrested speakers had been taken, staying away from work for half an hour. Four thousand workers participated in a noonday demonstration at the Westinghouse Plant in East Pittsburgh, overstaying their noon hour by 5 minutes.

Here is an indication that a really broad strike movement could have been developed with sufficient preparations. The only strike call was in fact confined to New York City where the slogan was proclaimed of "Down Tools at Four O'Clock!" with some success.

It is important for the whole working class to thoroughly understand the rapid transition of a so-called bourgeois-democratic country like the United States to fascist methods of oppression against the working class. It is exactly in the present period of energetic preparations for the next war that American "democracy" throws off its mask and reveals its hideous fascist features.

I.L.D. branches in workshops and factories everywhere must become ardent organizers of anti-war committees, among the best propagandists for the defense of the Soviet Union, among the most energetic agitators for the defeat of the imperialist war.



Photo Int'l.

NEW YORK LABOR DEMONSTRATES AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR AND FOR DEFENSE OF SOVIET UNION.



# Hurling Steel 12 Hours Daily

By SOL AUERBACH

**M**ACHINES grind, steel bangs, cranes roll along, hammers swing, riveters play their steel song making the din of a steel products plant. Machines grind not only steel here, but also workers' flesh and blood. Many 12-hour shifts have been sweated into the steel. Many arms, fingers and feet have been impressed into the steel. This is the Midland Steel Products Corporation plant in Cleveland.

Every worker of any standing in Cleveland knows Midland. He knows it as the place to keep away from. He knows it as a slave pen and butcher shop. Not that the other plants are much better. Midland is only a little worse.

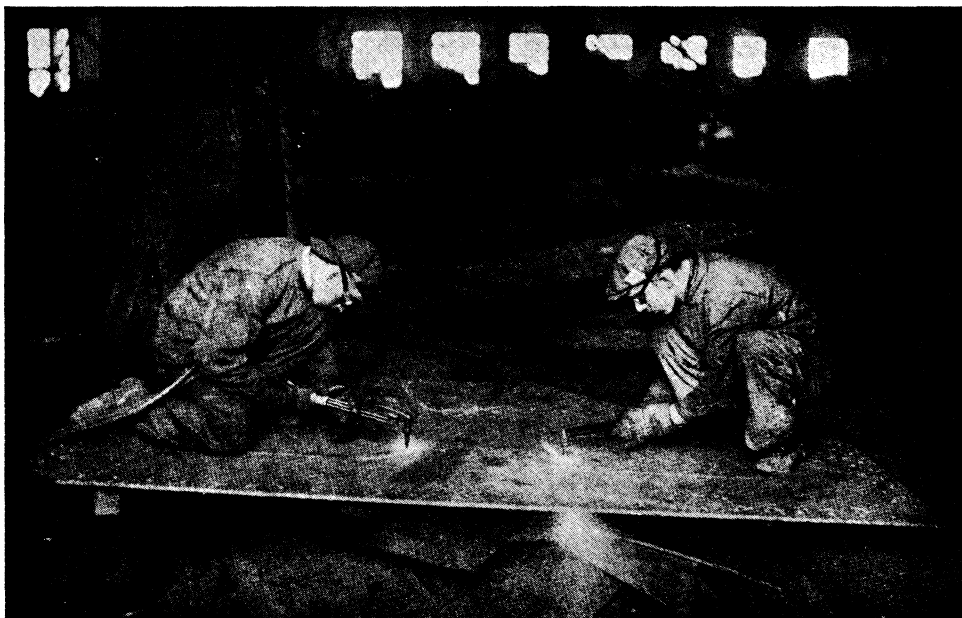
Yet, over a thousand men work in Midland, most of us as laborers. There are but few skilled workers here. All of us, Negro, Mexican, Hungarian, Slav, American work on the lines, shoving a frame into a rivet machine, or hammering a few rivets into a frame, or hurling tons of steel on the pile. All the operations here require strength.

A nine-hour whistle blows at 4:30 P. M. That is only the signal for the straw boss to come around and yell into your ear, with a smile on his jaws and furtive look in his eyes, "We're working to 6 tonight, boys."

Overtime. It takes your bones and warps them. It makes you flop into bed as soon as you come home. Twelve hours of steady work in a metal plant, flinging steel frames, every motion requiring strength, day after day, kills you. Not only 12 hours of work, but every minute full of speed, every minute a steel frame bumping you from behind into action. Chaotic, frenzied work, rubbing elbows with toilers on every side.

The line must stop for nothing. Midland Steel must increase its profits 100 percent in 1929. It is taking its wallop at the prosperity which gave the stockholders of the United States Steel Corporation \$132,100,842 for the first six months of 1929. So Midland has put three lines in the same space as was formerly occupied by one freight-car door line. It cut down on the number of "hands" to a minimum. It worked out an efficient system for reducing wages without the workers knowing it and increasing speed-up.

The promises of piece-work rates do the trick for the Midland bosses. If you work on the repair gang on the Ford truck frame line, pulling the heavy end of a steel frame from one bench to another and then onto the pile, always on the run, you are promised \$1.08 for every hundred frames the inspector passes. Running at full speed, not stopping for a drink or a rest, you can handle 400 frames in 9 hours. That means \$4.32 for the 9-hour day. Another 2 or 3 hours work and your pay-check will be 75 cents more. If you work an average of 11 hours a day and 9 hours on Saturday you



can figure on a week's pay of about \$27.50. But Midland does not give you the privilege of slaving 11 hours a day for more than two weeks at a stretch. Then there come days of idleness when all that was gained by killing oneself at overtime is more than lost twice over.

Due to the complicated jumble of piece and day rates on all jobs, you are left so much in the dark, that calculate as much as you might, you will not guess what is coming to you at the end of the two week pay period.

For the forging plants, machine shops and metal plants in the state of Ohio, the average hourly wage for unskilled labor is reported to be 31 cents per hour by state statistics. Most of the labor in these mills is unskilled. Picture the lives of the tens of thousands of steel and metal workers in the state.

Overtime, piece-work, speed-up, cutting the number of workers—it is by these methods that prosperity in the steel industry is created.

A steel plant is a battlefield. Stretchers are in place ready for use. The doctor always has his impliments ready. It is cheaper to pay for a doctor and for a few dozen stretchers than for safety guards on the machines. At Midland Steel not a day passes when a finger, a foot, or an arm is not squashed into the frames that make the new luxurious Studebaker sedans.

This is the record for four days, including only those instances which I saw myself:

Monday: A young worker, about 18, rushed by the repair gang on the Ford truck frames, holding his arm, leaving a stream of blood behind him. The foremen signalled that 2 fingers, young and straight,

had been left in a punch press. The line keeps on working. Tuesday: A stretcher, bearing a limp mass, is stealthily stolen out of the shop thru the rear past the hot riveting machine where I am working. A whole arm caught on a huge punch press on the freight-car door line. Wednesday: Machine repeats while oiler is at work. A foot is left in the steel. Thursday: A machinist loses a foot while repairing a press.

In all cases the line keeps on working. In all cases the workers are restless and mumble but are forced to keep on working. If they leave they are fired. And what of the innumerable bruises, cuts and bumps that color your body with the red, white and blue of Yankee profits? Watch the men as they go in to work and you will see hands without fingers, scars, limps. No safety guards on the machines. Where safety devises exist the foreman will tell you not to use them for it takes too much time. The line must go on and it must turn out its allotted number of pieces, or the scheduled profit promised by the company will not be achieved.

And what of the workers? Do they submit? No one can tell them anything about their conditions. They know them only too well. Long hours, hard labor, low pay, speed-up, lost limbs, are good lessons in class struggle. A shop paper issued by a Communist group in Midland Steel was pasted on the walls of the factory and in the toilets by the workers. The road of action has been pointed out to them. They talk strike every day, they are only waiting for a determined call. And the workers in the other metal plants in Cleveland, in the steel plants of Youngstown and Canton, in the concentrated metal plants in the Beaver Falls River valley, will also follow.





# THE NEGRO IN "THE LAND OF THE FREE"

**C**HATTEL slavery, officially abolished by a victorious North which fought the Civil War to destroy its ruinous competition to Northern industry, based on wage slavery, continues to exist in the South.

Negro working farmers and tenant farmers who go into unavoidable debt to their employers or landlords are held on the land until they work out the debt, which, under the system of cheating by landlords, they rarely ever do. In the meantime, their condition forces them deeper into the debt of the land-

are permitted to inflict heavy fines for the most trivial offenses, and the sheriffs to lease the convicts to planters.

Throughout the Black Belt Negroes suffer for arrests and impositions for petty offenses to an extent which makes their lives miserable.

And bolstering up the legal terrorism of the capitalist courts is the terrorism of the mob! Both are based upon the determination of the white ruling class to subject the Negro to the most brutal and intensive exploitation.

Chief among the forms of illegal white

The following day the *Memphis Press* carried a story from the scene of the lynching: "KILL NEGRO BY INCHES

"More than 500 persons stood by and looked on while the Negro was slowly burned to a crisp. A few women were scattered among the crowd of Arkansas planters, who directed the gruesome work of avenging the death of O. T. Craig and his daughter, Mrs. C. C. Williamson.

"Not once did the slayer beg for mercy despite the fact that he suffered one of the most horrible deaths imaginable."

The economic factor is always close to the surface in these lynchings. In this particular story the capitalist press itself unwittingly exposed the basis of Southern white ruling class terrorism against the Negro in its reference to the presence of Arkansas planters directing the torture.

Figures belie the arguments of the white planters that most lynchings occur because of attacks on women. Among 2,522 Negro workers lynched between 1889 and 1918, 900 were charged with murder, 477 with rape, 237 with attacks upon women, 210 with crimes against property, and 560 with miscellaneous crimes, ranging from talking back to a white man to resisting an officer. Between 1889 and 1925 there are 90 instances of lynching of women.

Another method of terrorizing Negroes is by wholesale massacres. Since the World War, however, this method has lost its popularity as it was discovered that the most carefully planned and well-intentioned massacre would develop into a race riot on account of the queer notions of armed resistance acquired by Negroes since the war. For instance, there were awkward affairs at Tulsa, Okla., Washington, D. C., Elaine, Ark., Charleston, S. C. Knoxville, Tenn., Longview, Tex., Rosemond, Fla., where the returned Negro soldiers gave a good account of themselves.

Savage whippings used to be one of the systems of chattel slavery. Chattel slavery has been abolished by the Emancipation Proclamation. But in the South Negroes continue to be whipped by the white planters. In Louisiana alone, in a period of 11 years, 683 Negroes were whipped, maimed or murdered.

The Negro in the South is denied even the delusion harbored by the white workers that he has a voice in the government. As Scott Nearing puts it in his "Black America", his emancipation was "only a paper liberation", the white ruling class "owns economically and dominates politically" the Negro masses of the South.

"Theoretically and legally, the Negroes were freed from slavery.

"Practically and economically, the Negroes were still under the necessity of making a living on land owned by Southern white men.

"Negroes obtained no new economic status as a result of the Emancipation Proclamation . . . Reconstruction left them land workers and house servants, serfs in fact, if not in law."

Grandfather clauses and other devices keep

them disfranchised. When these fail, the rope and faggot are resorted to.

There are about 9,000,000 Negroes in the sixteen southern and eastern states of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and the District of Columbia. In at least two of these states they constitute an actual majority of the population. Yet not one holds state or county office or occupies a seat in the legislature and, except in a few small towns and villages inhabited almost wholly by Negroes, there is not to be found a colored mayor or member of the municipal council, justice of the peace or even a policeman. Nor are Negroes permitted to sit on juries—not even in the trial of Negroes. Trial by a jury of one's peers is another delusion denied the Negro under capitalism. They are not allowed to serve in the militia and are, of course, barred from registration and election boards.

Negro school have more pupils per teacher, more double sessions, fewer teachers and these badly paid, some as low as \$15 a month, fewer and smaller playgrounds, and wholly inadequate provision for health and comfort. In some counties there are no schooling provisions for Negroes. Frequently, the planters, suffering from a labor shortage and objecting to Negro children being in the schools instead of laboring in their fields, band together and burn Negro schools. Negro schools are mostly housed in shacks and abandoned churches, ill-heated and unhealthy.

In education they are grossly discriminated against. While Negroes compose over 30 per cent of the population of the South, eight Southern States in the past ten years spent

same ratio applies to other states. Perhaps the following figures give a better idea. \$270,547,343 on new schools for children (little over two-thirds of the total) and \$29,547,723 for



SLAVING IN THE "LAND OF COTTON"

lord and employer, who may sell or transfer his claim against the Negro worker or share cropper—which really amounts to selling the Negro worker.

Debt slavery is one of various means by which the brutal exploitation of the Negro masses of the South is legalized.

The Southern Negro knows all there is to know about the capitalist courts. With reason he distrusts them. The guiding principle in the capitalist courts, South and North, is the maintenance of the domination of the white ruling class. In the South this domination is based upon the utter subjugation and exploitation of the Negroes, who constitute the bulk of farm laborers and unskilled workers. The rule in the Southern courts is that when a white man assaults a Negro he is not punished. When a white man kills a Negro he is usually freed without extended legal proceedings. When a Negro kills a white man, whether or not in self-defense, he must die. Negro witnesses count for nothing except where testifying against members of their own race.

Under the Convict Lease System, the courts

ruling class terrorism is lynching. Between 1866 and 1878, 3,500 persons, most of them Negroes, were killed in the South. No attempt was even made to arrest their murderers. Since 1885 there have been 4,250 lynchings. Of these 3,205 were of Negroes.

Lynchings are always "well attended". Women and children help make up the mobs. Frequently they are given the benefits of the press agent. For instance, the *Memphis News Scimitar* (January 1921) carried the headline: "Lowry Lynchers Announce Program: Negro to Pay Mob's Penalty for Crime".

The *Memphis Press* on the same day exulted "may lynch three to six Negroes this evening". Its leading story was captioned "Lowry Nears Tree on Which It Is Planned to Hang Him—Taken Through Memphis Today." The story related that "while five of their members detoured around Memphis in a closed automobile with Lowry, Negro murderer, who is to be lynched at Modena, Ark., to-night, other alleged members of the mob who took him from officers at Sardis, Miss., early this morning, came to Memphis and dined at the Hotel Peabody today".



AVERAGE ANNUAL PER CHILD OF

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Georgia
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia

Negro children must suffer from the effects of bad roads, through no fault of their own, and no school for although arrangements are made for them.

In 1910, ten million Negro children were without 29,727 teachers and practically no proper training paid.

Negroes are overlooked in health service. This is true but tragically true of the Negroes who are barred from white hospitals and hospitals in general. In 1910 10 fairly well equipped and about 90 other poor plants, inadequate for port. Negro physician from public hospitals and internes.

Negroes are barred from the best health service when "nigger gal" They are also barred from signs "Niggers and" They are denied the u-



FATHER AND SON—TEXTILE WORKERS



# "THE LAND OF THE FREE" - - - By Cyril Briggs

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same ratio applies to other school expenditures. Perhaps the following average annual expenditure per child in 10 Southern States will give a better idea.

\$270,547,343 on new schools for white children (little over two-thirds of the population) and \$29,547,723 for Negro children. The

and forced to confine themselves to the putrid pleasures of the slums, the pool rooms, etc.

It is not surprising to find the Negro death rate abnormally high. It is 62.5 per cent higher than the white death date. In some urban centers, south and north, it is as much as 90 per cent higher. Negro babies die two



A TYPICAL NEGRO VILLAGE IN THE SOUTH

## AVERAGE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE PER CHILD OF SCHOOL AGE

	for whites	for Negroes
Alabama	26.57	3.81
Arkansas	13.36	6.48
Florida	42.01	7.33
Georgia	25.84	5.78
Louisiana	33.73	5.48
Mississippi	25.95	5.62
North Carolina	25.31	7.52
South Carolina	27.88	2.74
Tennessee	21.02	11.88
Texas	31.77	20.24
Virginia	40.27	10.47

Negro children must plod through miles of bad roads, through slush and snow, to school for although arrangements are made to get the white children to school by bus no such arrangement is made for the Negro children.

In 1910, ten million Negroes had only 29,727 teachers and professors, most of them lacking proper training, all of them poorly paid.

Negroes are overlooked in sanitation and health service. This is true of the north, too, but tragically true of the south. Negroes are barred from white hospitals even when in dying condition. In 1910 there were less than 10 fairly well equipped hospitals for Negroes, and about 90 other private hospitals having poor plants, inadequate and uncertain support. Negro physicians are usually excluded from public hospitals and denied practice as internes.

Negroes are barred from the theatres, except when "nigger galleries" are maintained. They are also barred from the public park by signs "Niggers and Dogs Not Allowed". They are denied the use of recreation centers

thirds faster than white babies under the unhealthy conditions forced upon the Negro in segregated districts where they are, to an even greater extent than the white workers, the prey of the landlords. In the South thousands of Negro workers are forced to live in one room shanties, without ventilation or privacy, built of logs or of wood, usually unpainted, squalid in the extreme, lacking the simplest necessities.

Negro settlements in the South are confined to swampy, isolated districts. Very often the red light districts, white and colored, touch upon the Negro residential districts.

The great majority of Negroes in the South are hired farm workers and tenant farmers. As tenant farmers and share croppers they are at the mercy of the white landlords. He short changes the tenant. He buys from him at his own price, later selling at a huge profit. This system renders it impossible for tenants to make a living and they are forced to go into debt to their landlords. These debts must be paid by the tenant before he can leave the property of his landlord. If he tries to escape the power of the state pursues him and returns him to his owner. In most cases they are severely punished for having run away.

Southern wages are notoriously low for the white workers, but even lower for the Negro workers. Negro woman in domestic labor are paid as low as \$1.50 and board a week. Men in domestic service get around \$5.00. In the oyster and shrimp canning communities along the Gulf Coast reported wages of Negro women and children range from \$1.00 to \$12.50 a week, without board.

Child labor is prevalent throughout the (Continued on page 183)



FATHER AND SON—TEXTILE WORKERS

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# Gastonia Strikers Write to USSR

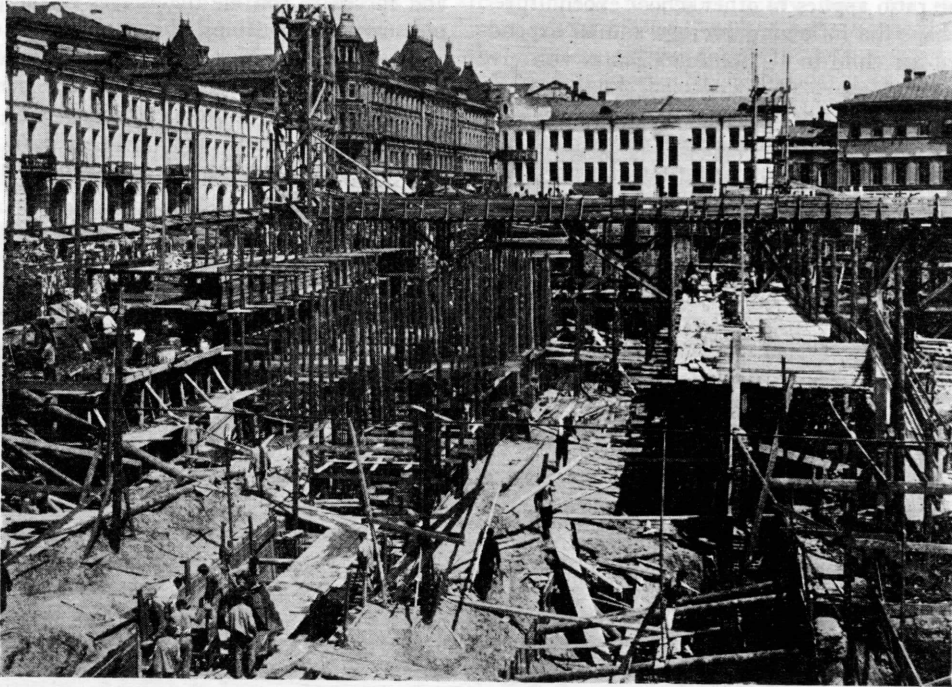


Photo Presse Cliche  
A NEW BUILDING BEING ERECTED IN KHARKOFF—A COMMON SCENE IN THE SOVIET UNION TODAY

Dear Comrades:—

I am writing this a few days before I will have to stand trial in Gastonia, North Carolina which may result in my electrocution. At the same time there will be fifteen other comrades who might be sent to the electric chair, as were Sacco and Vanzetti, and seven others who might receive long prison terms. The only "crime" that we committed was to organize the workers in Gastonia and to fight against the most miserable conditions. You comrades in Russia who for over eleven years are living under the Dictatorship of the working class, in a country where the industries are run in the interests of the working class and poor peasants have probably forgotten the miserable oppression that we have to face in this greatest of all capitalist countries.

The government here does everything it possibly can to stop us from organizing. Soldiers were sent down against us. Then they hired gangsters and bandits. When this did not help them to break our strike, they planned a raid upon our union headquarters which we built ourselves after a masked gang of gansters tore down our old headquarters. In the shooting that followed from both sides three policemen were hit, one of whom died. Now the bosses are using this as an excuse to "legally" murder 16 of our comrades and imprison 7 others.

This is an attack not only against us but against all the workers. The reactionary officials of the American Federation of Labor have sent out a leeter to their members asking them not to support us. The rank and file of the unions though will help to defend us over the protest of the labor fakers. But not only the American work-

ers must fight for the lives and freedom of the twenty-three workers, but the workers from all countries must unite in a mighty protest, for it is a fight not only of the twenty-three workers but a fight to organize the 300,000 textile workers in the South.

Comradely yours,  
CLARENCE MILLER.

Dear Comrades of the First Workers Country in the World:—

I am one of the textile workers of Gastonia out on strike for better conditions. I used to work 12 hours every day. I was

better paid than most of the other workers averaging \$10 or \$12 a week.

I lived in a house belonging to the Manville-Jenckes Company. When I worked there three years ago I had 14 frames from which to pull yarn. Then the speed-up came, and they added on five more frames. More doubling-up, more speed-up, and then they put me on 31 frames for less money than I got for 14. You can see for yourself how terrible the speed-up, rationalization, is.

When the strike broke out, I saw police beat up, besides men, even old women, young women and children. I was on the picket line when it was broken up the afternoon of the shooting, June 7. I walked through the bayonets one day, of the police and mill deputies.

The bosses are determined to kill our leading strikers and organizers, by the electric chair, in order to break up our union. But the South has woke up to the importance of the union, and they are going to stick by the National Textile Workers' Union regardless of the police, the bosses, the government, the courts.

You Russian workers, off on the other side of the world, and enjoying a workers' government perhaps can't imagine the conditions under which we work today. I have been reading and hearing of your system and am very much pleased with it.

I hope some day to be able to get rid of the speed-up and low wages, as you workers have done by sticking together for your rights. For all workers have to be friends to their fellow workers. For the capitalist is nobody's friend except his own.

With comradely greetings,  
JOHN BREWER.

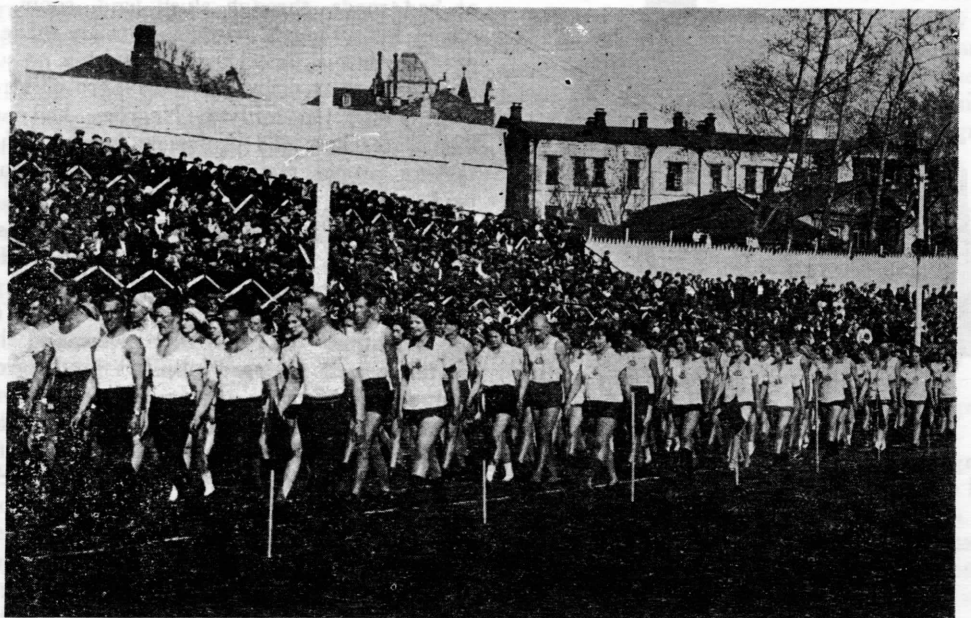


Photo Presse Cliche  
A TRACK MEET IN THE SOVIET UNION. RUSSIAN WORKERS HAVE SPLENDID SPORT FACILITIES.

# From Boston to Gastonia

By MICHAEL GOLD  
(Editor of *New Masses*)

IT is two short years since the murder of Sacco and Vanzetti.

The industrialists of America are celebrating the anniversary in a peculiarly ironic way. Not in sack-cloth and ashes do they sit; no, they fling in our faces another and greater Sacco-Vanzetti case.

Gastonia! Another American tragedy! Sacco and Vanzetti were labor agitators; they were crucified. In Gastonia sixteen men and women are charged with the same crime, and the same electric chair awaits them.

It is as if the industrial lords of America were fixing a new tariff. In exchange for the inevitable organization of the working class, a certain number of labor leaders must die every year.

We refuse to pay this price. Despite the moral breakdown of liberalism and trade unionism in this country, great forces are working underneath. The unorganized are being organized—slowly but surely—and nothing can stop the process. Gastonia is not a “murder” trial as the newspapers call it. It is a symptom of the social changes that are going on in the South; just as the trial of Sacco-Vanzetti was of New England.

I was one of those deeply concerned with the fate of Sacco-Vanzetti. I was in Boston during the last three weeks, and joined in the demonstrations. I would like to tell the southern mill owners that they are immortal blunderers.

If there was one sure way of speeding up the organization of the southern workers, it was by providing a bosses terror such as this.

Sacco and Vanzetti became a national and international issue. They are not forgotten and never will be. Their fate aroused a militant spirit that is still felt in thousands of labor and liberal centers.

Gastonia seems destined to produce even greater feeling. Stupid Southern mill-owners! you think you are digging a deep grave for our brave comrades; but it is your own shameful grave you are digging!

We promise you two things:

Our comrades shall not die at your hands.

Your mill slaves will be organized in militant unions.



Photo Int'l.  
DEMONSTRATIONS LIKE THIS ONE FOR SACCO AND VANZETTI IN PARIS MUST BEGIN NOW FOR THE GASTONIA PRISONERS.

## Fighting Gastonia Battle in New York

By WILLIAM WEINSTONE,  
*Communist Candidate for Mayor of New York*

THE murderous assault on the Gastonia workers, the violence of the company-owned police is not an isolated instance in the class struggle in America today.

It is only the high-water mark in the flood of repressions loosed against the working class. New York City has had a series of little Gastonias in the past few years and the working class, as a result of ex-

perience, is well able to appreciate the condition of the textile slaves of the South. The needle trade section has been the scene of violent and brutal assaults upon thousands of militant workers. The employers operating with the labor bureaucrats, thugs and police, have established a form of martial law under which the workers have no right to strike or picket.

But Gastonia is a symbol of the awakening of the working class, is a demonstration of the fact that workers realize they must fight with one will and with a firm determination in order to escape the conditions of greater bondage—in order to avoid being cast in chains and tied hands and feet to the policy of rationalization and to the chariot of imperialist war.

So great however is the significance of the battle that revolutionary workers should not be satisfied. Workers should increase their efforts a hundred fold to save the prisoners.

The strengthening of the International Labor Defense and recruiting tens of thousands of workers—of building a network of live aggressive units of the International Labor Defense is a vital necessity.

It is a necessity to ensure the success of the upward movement of the working class in all parts of the country which finds expression in the conference of the Trade Union Educational League on August 31.

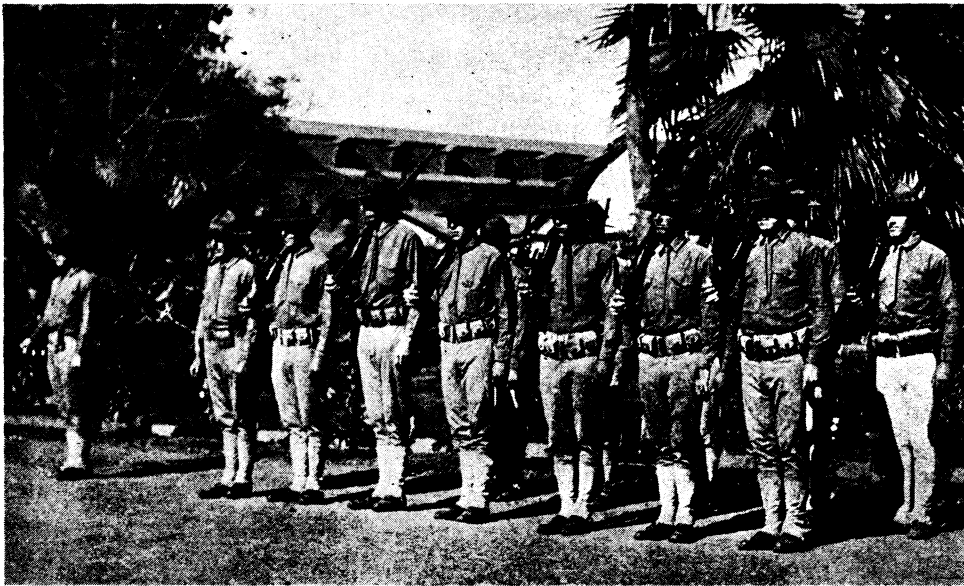


Photo Int'l.  
POLICE BREAKING UP A SACCO DEMONSTRATION IN BOSTON



# The Revolt In Curacao

By CARLOS FLEURY



MARINES GUARD YANKEE IMPERIALISM IN NICARAGUA

**C**URACAO is a small island in the Caribbean Sea. It is part of the British controlled "Dutch Colonial Empire." The Royal Dutch Shell operates the largest oil refinery in the world there under the name of "Curacaosche Petroleum Industrie Maatschppij." This island leaped suddenly into the day's news, in the middle of June 1929, because of a "coup" organized by Venezuelan and Dominican workers who overpowered the Governor of the Island, the head of the garrison, seized the American ship "Maracaibo" and successfully disembarked in Venezuela, where they began a military movement to crush the criminal dictatorship of Juan Vincente Gomez, puppet of American imperialism. It is reported that these workers, under the leadership of the Venezuelan Revolutionary Party, seized about two thousand rifles, eighteen machine guns, one field gun and sufficient ammunition to carry them through in their enterprise.

To explain this unprecedented coup in modern colonial history, it is necessary to examine the conditions to which the workers of Curacao are subjected.

Before oil was struck in Venezuela, this island had very little importance from a commercial point of view. Its population, amounting then to about 12,000 people, was composed mostly of fishermen and contrabandists who made a living by smuggling goods into Venezuela.

Oil, that precious liquid which has cost already so many workers' lives brought its doubtful boon to the unimportant and arid island. The Royal Dutch Shell, the owner of the richest concessions in Venezuela, fearing the tyranny of Gomez might be replaced some day by a government less sympathetic to the desires of imperialism, established the "Largest oil refinery in the

world" in that small British controlled Dutch Colony.

New workers were needed to sweat under the tropical sun of Curacao and produce fat dividends for the Royal Dutch Shell. Many men were employed. "Well," said the managers of the refinery, "if we cannot get sufficient workers here in Curacao, our friend, Juan Vincente Gomez, will provide them for us . . ."

Many thousands of Venezuelan workers were lured by promises and emigrated to Curacao where they would find a job at a "good salary": 28 hundredths of a florin per hour or \$1.08 per day, for 9 hours of work under a tropical sun, handling crude oil, a most obnoxious mineral.

All the workers were housed in dirty barracks, owned by the company; most of them were fed by the company; their miserable salary went back immediately into the pockets of some officials of the refinery. Due to their housing conditions, to the poor food and to the lack of portable water many workers fell ill and had to be replaced by healthier men. The expanding production of the refinery needed more "hands" also. Two "labor contractors" were dispatched to Venezuela.

The compensation to the "Labor agents" was not sufficient to fill the company's need for more workers. It was then decided to induce some high official of the tyrannical regime in Venezuela to take a hand and become interested in this "labor agency."

General Argenis Asuaje president of the State of Falcon was readily found. He was offered a compensation of \$1.00 per head sent to slave in Curacao.

The "chief executive" of that state became openly a recruiting agent for the Royal Dutch Shell. This man used the

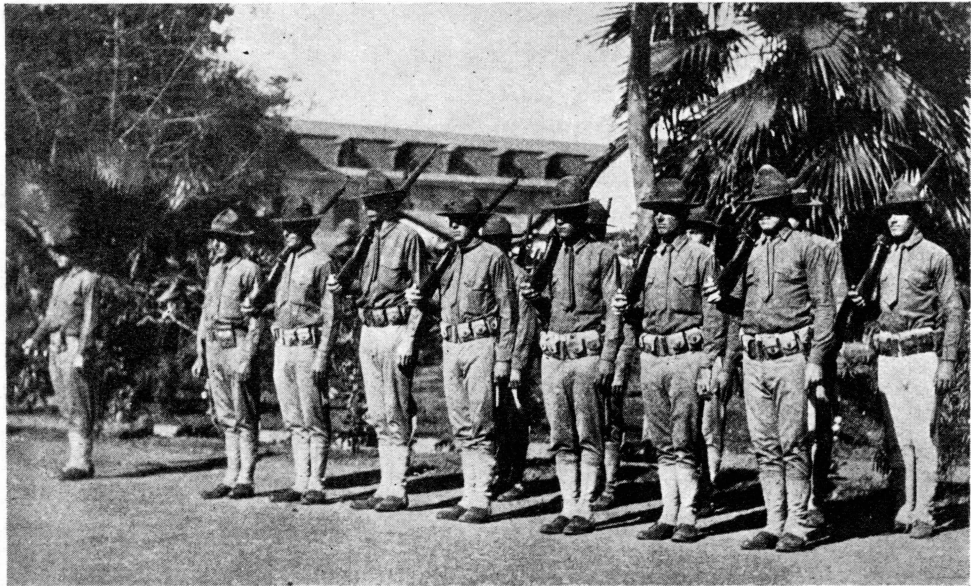
power of his official position to arrest, engage and ship thousands of men to slave in the largest oil refinery in the world. These workers could not go back to Venezuela, they were compelled to remain in Curacao at the mercy of the company. The first \$10.00 that they earned was kept by the company as a guarantee for their satisfactory conduct; furthermore if they should "desert" their jobs and return to their native state of Falcon where their families lived, they would be arrested by the police forces of General Asuaje, thrown into jail, compelled to work on the highways in the chain gang, or be recruited into the army. This is the background of the situation in Curacao. Hard labor, miserable salary, terrible housing conditions, the worst food, provocative agents, spies, persecutions from the colonial government and from the government oppression in a center where illiteracy affects 90% of the population. These conditions make it possible to deliver in the cities of the east in the United States oil \$1.20 cheaper per barrel than that from the wells of Oklahoma or Texas.

The workers of Curacao know very well all the refinements of imperialist penetration; they know that the governments of Curacao and Venezuela, at a simple insinuation of the Royal Dutch Shell master, enslave, deport, and condemn to hard labor those workers whom they need to enrich the realm of Henry Deterding the "Oil Napoleon". They know that only a government by them and for them can provide the necessary liberty to enjoy life and the product of their labors.

On January 25th, 1929, Hilario Montenegro, the general secretary of the Curacao Branch of the Venezuelan Revolutionary Party, was murdered upon the command of Juan Vincente Gomez, because comrade Montenegro was a leader in the struggle for the emancipation of the working class. His murderer, Delfin Perez, was taken from jail on June 9th, 1929, at the time of the uprising of the workers in Curacao. To Venezuela he went. He was shot to death after being court-martialed by a workers revolutionary tribunal.

## ANTI-IMPERIALIST TOUR

The All-America Anti-Imperialist League, United States Section, has arranged a tour, covering every principal city in the United States, for William Simons, its National Secretary. Simons will speak on the struggle against world imperialism and will report on the Frankfurt Anti-Imperialist conference and the struggle in Latin America against imperialism. He has recently returned from South America and is in a position to give an intimate account of recent development in Latin America.



MARINES GUARD YANKEE IMPERIALISM IN NICARAGUA

# Defense for Seamen

By *GEORGE MINK*  
(Secretary Marine Workers League)

**T**HE marine worker is not only one of the most exploited workers but he is also one of the most persecuted. And why? Because the seamen while at sea are subjected to maritime law which empowers the shipowners' agent, the captain, to be the sole judge and jury. The marine worker has no redress for his grievances and should he act contrary to the wishes of the "master" he is thrown in irons, on bread and water. Should a seaman while under "articles" (contract) incur the displeasure of the captain he is "logged" (reducing of wages; two days for every day off, four days pay for refusing duty, etc.) For instance, on the S. S. Leviathan on each round trip which takes her 17 days we find that \$1000 is sliced off seamen's wages. On arrival at port the captain's word is sufficient to imprison any one whom he charges before the federal authorities.

While ashore most seamen are friendless and have no definite abode. Here is where the dirty work comes in. The sailor is robbed of his pitiful, hard-earned wages by money changers, seamen's church institutes and missions on the various water fronts. On the New York water front the ship owners have erected a "club" of fourteen stories which is to accommodate the marine workers. They employ their own private uniformed thugs, and the clubs of these thugs are used indiscriminately on seamen's heads.

On July 29th two seamen, McDonald and Barshaw were brutally clubbed by the thugs of this famous ship owners' institute. While entering the institute to go to their lodging these men were turned over to the civil authorities on a series of charges ranging from disorderly conduct to resisting arrest. In this case the I.L.D. defended the seamen and had them released. In another case the I.L.D. defended one of the organizers of the Marine Workers League who was framed-up by the Standard Oil Co. when he boarded one of their ships for organizing purposes. While there have been many working class organizations with defense branches and funds nevertheless none have offered seamen any aid and counsel when they were badly in need of it. The I.L.D. in 1928 secured the release of two seamen imprisoned in Portland, Maine, on framed-up charges dur-

ing the seamen's strike in 1921. These seamen were never defended by the International Seamen's Union which retains a "shyster" lawyer who has made thousands of dollars on seamen.

The Marine Workers' League which laid the basis for a marine workers industrial union at its recent Atlantic Coast Conference, which was held at 28 South St., Aug. 17th, is definitely decided that labor defense branches be formed on all ports and on every ship afloat.

## NEGRO IN "LAND OF FREE"

(Continued from page 179)

South, white and Negro children, but especially the latter, being subject to intensive exploitation in the fields and factories. Many Negro children of tender age are to be found sweating and slaving in the fields. Of one group of 322 studied (Maryland) 8.1 per cent were under 8 years; 20.2 per cent were from 8 to 10; 23.9 per cent from 10 to 12! 46.9 were over 12 years.

Where labor is organized it is under the leadership of the American Federation of Labor which pursues in the South even a more cowardly and reactionary policy of discrimination towards Negro workers than it does in the North. Until the invasion of the South by the left wing National Textile Workers Union there was no effort to organize the Negroes and no voice raised among organized labor in their behalf. Negroes work in many of the skilled trades in the South are, as a rule, organized in Jim Crow locals of the American Federation of Labor.



Photo Int'l.  
ARRESTING HARRY EISMAN

## Tammany Attacks Workers Children

The police of New York, the brutal, labor-hating cops of Tammany Hall, call Harry Eisman, fifteen years old, "incorrigible."

And this lad, bright and fearless, devoted to the working class, will be taken from his family for six months and placed in a "home."

He has been sentenced to a half year term in the Home of Jewish Guardians at Hawthorne, N. Y.

His crime—taking part in a demonstration declaring that Boy Scouts are being trained for imperialist war by the master class.

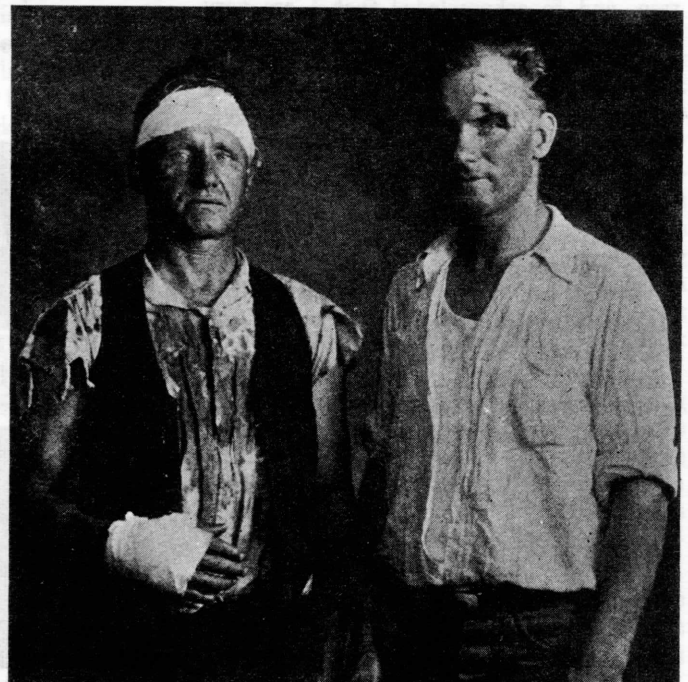
Harry was one of the group of Young Pioneers who marched to Pier 53, when the Boy Scout delegation was leaving for England, to the annual "jamboree" of that organization.

"The bosses train you for war!" Harry shouted. "They want you to beat down the working class! Join the Pioneers and defend the working class!" he cried out.

Mounted policemen rode down on the crowd of Pioneers and Harry defended himself. He was charged with "beating a horse." When sentenced the magistrate burst into a torrent of abuse against the Pioneers and praised the Boy Scouts."

Harry defended his position. "The Boy Scouts are the tools of the militarists and are helping to prepare the next bosses' war."

"Six months in the home" the angered magistrate shouted. The International Labor Defense is appealing the case.



SEAMEN BEATEN UP BY THUGS IN SHIPOWNERS' INSTITUTE





# Voices FROM Prison



I. L. D. DEMONSTRATES FOR RELEASE OF CENTRALIA PRISONERS

## BARNETT CORRECTS I. W. W.

Walla Walla, Washington,  
July 16th, 1929.

Dear Comrades:—

The statement in the I.W.W. press that the I.L.D. has been repudiated by the Centralia victims is a lie. Britt Smith sent out a dirty letter denouncing the I.L.D. and everyone else not controlled by the fraction of the I.W.W. he is controlled by. But his letter does not express the opinion of more than 2 persons in the Centralia group, and Britt Smith is one of the two.

We are hoping you save Fred Beal and the other comrades in North Carolina from legal lynching.

Sincerely yours,  
EUGENE BARNETT.

Moundsville, W. Va.

Dear Sirs and Comrades:

In reply to your letter of June 24th resp. and to acknowledge that I am very happy to hear from you, and to receive the check as is the usual custom of the I.L.D., and I sincerely thank you and appreciate all that you are doing for class workers confined in prisons.

I am sorry because of the difficulties which are very unpleasant to the workers employed throughout the various factories today and I am ready to indorse my name as willing brother to help all those unfortunate because of the above. I am very much claptrapped being in here but I give you my assurance as a fellow worker I am in hearty sympathy with all my dear comrades and I hope things will turn out all right.

I am convinced that you have been doing all you can to make things pleasant for those confined.

I beg to remain with best wishes for our success,

Fraternally yours,  
FRANK BRBOT.

Due to lack of space in this issue numerous letters from class-war prisoners have been omitted. These will be printed in the October issue of the Labor Defender.



RED DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO

MOONEY'S MOTHER  
THANKS I. L. D.

July 19, 1929.

Dear Comrades:

Received your letter with \$20 enclosed.

Words can never express my deep appreciation for the noble and splendid work your committee is carrying on in behalf of prisoners and victims of this unjust system.

With kind and sincere appreciation.  
May your spirit live forever.

Mrs. Mary Mooney.

Moundsville, W. Va.

Dear Comrades and Fellow Workers:

Just a few lines to let you know I received my check and thank you all very much for it and the ones I have received in the past. I didn't get my parole as I thought I would. The pardon attorney objected to it but for what reason I don't know. I come up before the board at the next parole board.

Regarding my endorsement of the campaign for the defense of my fellow workers in the "North Carolina trouble" I gladly endorse it and go further to say that I wish I could be there to fight by their side to win it. For win they must. And in winning it means another step toward our goal in the fight for labor.

Thanking you again for everything you have done for me and extending my greetings to fellow workers behind prison walls as I am and those on the outside I remain,

Fraternally yours,  
ALEX CHESSMAN.

# An Urgent Appeal from Mexico

**T**WO urgent cables recently received by the Int'l Labor Defense from Jorge Contreras, secretary of the Caribbean Secretariat of the I.L.D., and from Hernan Laborde and Hurvitz, leaders of the Mexican Communist Party, report the beginning of a second wave of white terror in Cuba and Mexico, where the puppet presidents of Yankee imperialism are serving their masters well.

The cables speak eloquently for themselves.

"Mexico City.

"Notified Berlin and Buenos Aires of necessity of international campaign against the new white terror in Mexico and Cuba. The Caribbean Secretariat of the I.L.D. appeals to the workers of the whole world to support the fight of the Mexican workers. Only international and American solidarity can help us in the colossal fight against fascism and white terror.

"Jorge Contreras."

"Mexico City.

"Second white terror begun. Government accuses Communists of high treason for August 1st demonstrations. Threatens to arrest all Communist leaders and sharpen terroristic methods. Government orders arrest and deportation of foreign revolutionaries. Bourgeois press preparing openly. Seek to suppress Communist Party, press, Worker-Peasant Bloc, I.L.D.

"Hernan Laborde and Hurvitz."

News of further terror against the workers and peasants of Mexico and Cuba leak through almost daily in spite of strict censorship.



Photo Int'l.  
Workers in Jail after being beaten by police at Chicago Anti-War demonstration, August First.



WORKERS IN MEXICO CITY DEMONSTRATING IN PROTEST AGAINST THE EXECUTION OF RODRIGUEZ, SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL PEASANT'S LEAGUE, BY PORTES GIL AND GENERAL CALLES

## Defense Branches - Mobilize!

**T**HE district, city and branch organizations of the International Labor Defense have in the last two and a half months responded well to the mobilization call for Gastonia Joint Defense and Relief campaign committees, together with the Workers International Relief. The I.L.D. membership has rallied to Gastonia.

Together with this campaign the I.L.D. is carrying on an organization drive, establishing new branches, getting thousands of new members. The Illinois-Wisconsin district reports over 10 new branches organized in the last few weeks, in Chicago, Gary and Kenosha. This has been done in the face of 101 arrest cases in the district in that period; or rather, it has been done in reply to those arrests and in answer to the bosses' attempts to railroad the 23 Gastonia prisoners to the electric chair and long imprisonment.

Reports from Youngstown, Ohio, Christopher, Ill., Los Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia and scores of other cities and industrial towns indicate an aroused working-class mobilizing to save the Gastonia prisoners, rallying to the defense of the increasing numbers of workers arrested and persecuted by the police and the capitalist state-power.

It is up to the branches of the I.L.D. to intensify their activity ten-fold, a hundred-fold, to prevent another Sacco and Vanzetti "legal" murder in Gastonia, to defend

the hundreds of other workers being arrested, framed-up and imprisoned throughout the country.

The situation *demand*s a mass membership in the I.L.D. and is the best opportunity to build new branches and to reach our goal of 100,000 new members.

### FEDERAL AUTHORITIES FIGHT I. L. D. VICTORY

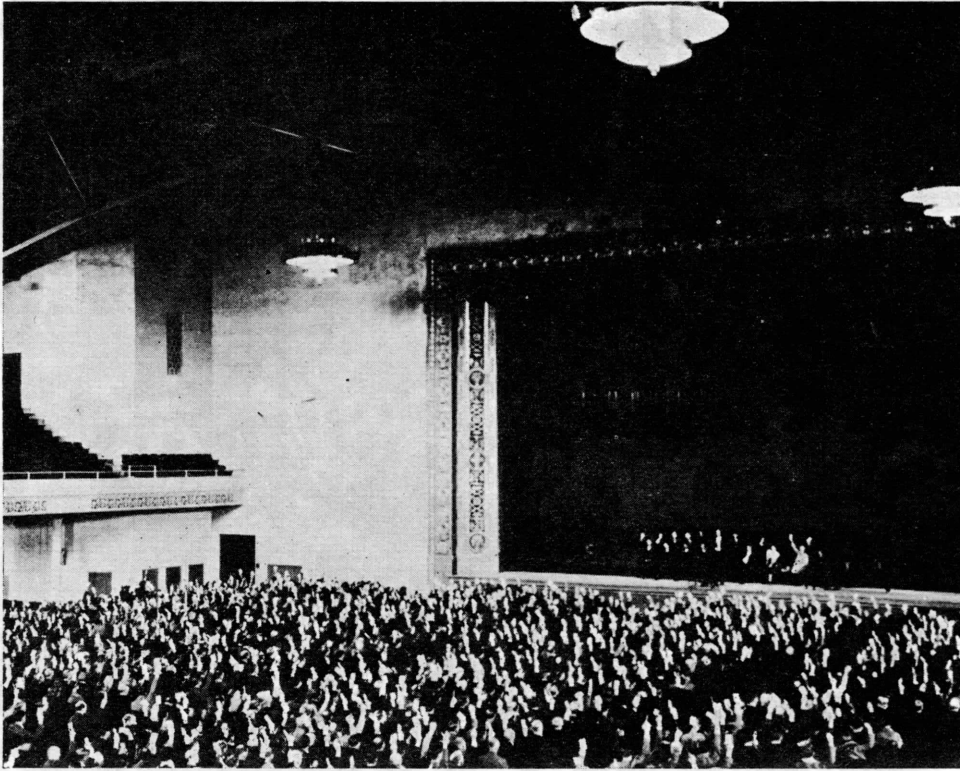
The federal government has appealed the cases of Rade Radikovich and John Voich, both workers of Prescott, Arizona, whose release from Ellis Island was obtained by the International Labor Defense last month.

They were to be deported to the fascist realm of Yugo-Slavia for being members of the Communist Party. By preventing their deportation the I.L.D. established a precedent in the New York federal court that alien membership in the Communist Party does not entail deportation.

Radikovitch was charged with belonging to a "proscribed" organization and with distributing "proscribed" literature. The Federal authorities base their appeal on their charge that the Communist Party is for the forcible overthrow of the government and therefore illegal.

This appeal is an attempt to defeat the precedent set in these cases and thus pave the way for wholesale deportations and a general drive on the Communist Party.





SEATTLE WORKERS MAKE A MASS DEMAND FOR RELEASE OF CENTRALIA PRISONERS

## Who Are the Gastonia Prisoners?

(Continued from page 172)

### DELMAR HAMPTON

Delmar Hampton was born July 24, 1900, near Murphy, Cherokee County, North Carolina. He spent his childhood working on his father's farm. He did not have an opportunity to learn how to read and write until he was 18 years old. At 13 years of age he went to work in a furniture factory at Murphy. Since then he has worked in shipyards and textile mills. He enlisted in the army for one year and was sent to Fitzmore General Hospital No. 21 at Denver, Colorado. After his discharge from the army in 1921 he returned to Gastonia and worked in the Loray Mill. He has been engaged in two previous strikes, a riveters strike in Savannah, Ga. and a shipyard strike at Hogg Island.

"I joined the N.T.W.U, shortly after the strike was called and did everything I could to win the strike. Today I am in jail because of my activities, because of my loyalty to the Union."

### K. Y. HENDRYX

Hendryx, 29 years old, is the son of a poor farmer of Piney Creek, N. C. He attended school for several years and "learned to read and write." At nine years of age he was working in the Fries, Va. cotton mill as a doffer.

Just before the strike was called he had been offered a better job in the Loray mill than the one he had in the Trenton mill.

"When I learned that the strike call had

been made I did not go to work and did my best to help win the strike of the Loray mill workers."

He was attacked once, before the night of June 7 by the two police brutes, Gilbert and Rankin, who tried to beat him up, but were frightened away by the appearance of several strikers. Several nights after the raid upon union headquarters he was arrested as an active union member and thrown into Gaston County jail, charged with murder.

### JOSEPH HARRISON

Joseph Harrison was the striker who was wounded on the night of June 7th when Aderholt led his raiding party in an attempt to destroy the headquarters of the union. He was born in 1905 in New York City. He had to go to work in Passaic at the age of fourteen in a bleachery earning \$9.60 per week.

When the Passaic strike broke out he was working in the United Piece Dyeworks in Lodi, N. J. During the course of the strike he was arrested several times for picketing.

During the summer of 1927 he participated in the New Bedford strike. He went back to Passaic and worked in several mills during the winter and spring seasons. "I became interested in the struggle of the Southern textile workers under the leadership of the N.T.U. and finally decided to study the southern situation and get first-

hand information. I arrived during the last week of May and was asked to remain in the south as an organizer and was preparing to leave Gastonia to go to another city to organize when the raid was made upon the tent colony. During the fight, I was wounded."

### W. M. MCGINNIS

W. M. McGinnis was one of the most active of the Loray mill strikers. He was born in the South and, although in his early twenties, he has worked in the mills for a number of years. He joined the National Textile Workers' Union as soon as the strike was called in the Loray mill and played an active part on the picket lines and in organizational work. He was arrested and charged with murder after the raid on the camp on June 7.

### CHARGED WITH "MURDEROUS ASSAULT"

The seven Gastonia strikers charged with "secret assault with deadly weapons with intent to kill," are all native Southern workers who were employed in the Gastonia textile mills and walked out when the strike was called. They were among the most active of the strikers and are facing long prison terms for that reason.

They are: Ernest Martin, Walter Loyd, Clarence Townsend, D. E. MacDonald, Robert Litoff, C. M. Lell, and J. R. Pittman.

Their trial has been set for October 14, in Gastonia.



TWO YEARS AGO IN LONDON



**BOOKS FOR GASTONIA PRISONERS**

**T**HE thirteen Gastonia prisoners in jail in Gaston County want books, pamphlets and records. They have sent urgent letters to the International Labor Defense. It is characteristic of the prisoners that when Dr. John Randolph Neal, defense attorney, visited them in jail and asked them if they wanted anything, Sophie Melvin, 19-year old youth organizer on trial for her life, asked for a book on the status of education in North Carolina.

While in jail the prisoners want to study Marxism and Leninism, economics, the history of the American labor movement. The Loray Mill strikers want to ground themselves in the elements of class struggle tactics. A class is being held in jail in which the more advanced prisoners are guiding the others.

These class-war prisoners on trial for their lives, temporarily removed from the class-war battlefield, want to prepare themselves to take the lead in the struggle of the workers after their release has been forced by mass pressure.

Let us send them books. They will be all the better fighters for our cause. A special Book Fund has been set aside. Contribute to it. They have been asking for books such as: Marx's Capital, Bucharin's Historical Materialism, Lenin's writings, Bimba's History of the American Workingclass; books on economics; workingclass literature such as the new Soviet novels, Jack London's books, short stories and magazines. They also want records—classical, popular songs and jazz. Use the following blank:

*International Labor Defense,  
80 E. 11th St., New York City.*

*Enclosed is..... which I contribute to the Book Fund for the Gastonia prisoners.*

Name .....

Address .....

**JOIN THE CORPS OF LABOR DEFENDER PHOTOGRAPHERS**

**D**IRECT from the scenes of class struggle, workers in action against scabs, strikebreakers; workers in their organizational activity; workers in mass movement; workers in the factories; machines, factories homes; worker's camps and homes—these are the kind of photos we want.

"Snap as you act", should be the slogan of the workers corps of Labor Defender photographers.

We want pictures from workers participating in the activity and life of the labor movement.

We want so many of these kind of photos that we will be able to have at least two pages of them in every issue of the Labor Defender.

Act through your I.L.D. branches. Form a group of Labor Defender photographers in your section. Write on the back of your pictures what it is all about and send in your name and address with them.

# Mobilize For Gastonia

**A MILLION  
SIGNATURES!**

**\$50,000.00 FOR DEFENSE  
AND  
RELIEF**

**JOIN THE  
INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE**

If you are interested in the growth and development of the International Labor Defense you should become a member at once. Not only should you as an individual join, but you should also get your fellow-workers to join. Get your neighbors and your friends to join. The initiation fee is 25c, the dues are 15c per month. Five members constitute a branch. Get five or more of your shop-mates or friends together who want to help the I.L.D. Send in the names together with the initiation fee and you will receive a charter. Remember that without organization the working class can accomplish nothing. Organize into the I.L.D.

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Address .....

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EVERY WORKER THRUOUT THE NATION MUST UPHOLD THE RIGHT OF THE 23 TEXTILE WORKERS AND LEADERS, WHO FACE THE ELECTRIC CHAIR AND LONG PRISON TERMS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, THEIR UNION HALL, THEIR HOMES IN THE W. L. R. TENT COLONY, THE RIGHT TO DEFEND THEIR UNION AND TO STRIKE.

## GASTONIA DEMANDS ACTION AND QUICK ACTION AT THAT!

**Y**OU have heard that the southern textile mill owners, their press, politicians and staff of 16 prosecutors promise the 23 southern textile workers and leaders, whom they intend to electrocute and give long prison terms, a "fair trial" in their capitalist courts.

Let's repeat so that you may understand. THE SOUTHERN MILL OWNERS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT, WHOSE PROGRAM IS TO SMASH THE NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS' UNION AND DRIVE IT OUT OF THE SOUTH, AND WHO INTEND ELECTROCUTING THE DEFENDANTS AS A MEANS TOWARD THIS END—PROMISE A "FAIR TRIAL". OUR LABOR PRISONERS ARE GOING TO BE SENT TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR BY MEANS OF A "FAIR TRIAL".

The trial has been transferred to another county, the prosecution has indicated it would reduce the charges against the three women defendants to second degree murder—and all this is only a manoeuvre on the part of the prosecution to convict and sentence these prisoners to death.

THERE WILL BE NO "FAIR TRIAL" FOR OUR PRISONERS. THIS TRIAL WILL BE A CLASS TRIAL, AS ALL LABOR TRIALS ARE.

These prisoners will be freed, will be saved from the electric chair and long terms in prison, only by the mass power of the working class.

AND IF WE ARE TO FREE THESE PRISONERS AND SAVE THEM FOR THE LABOR MOVEMENT WE MUST IMMEDIATELY MOBILIZE THE WORKERS THRUOUT THE NATION IN PROTEST AGAINST THEIR IMPRISONMENT AND PROSECUTION.

PROVE YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOUTHERN TEXTILE WORKERS AND WITH THE IMPRISONED TEXTILE STRIKERS AND LEADERS BY PARTICIPATING IN THE

TEN DAYS' INTENSIVE DRIVE—AUG. 24 TO SEPT. 2 INCLUSIVE

TO TELL WORKERS ABOUT GASTONIA—TO COLLECT FUNDS FOR GASTONIA

Mass meetings to inform the working class regarding the issues in Gastonia must be held all the time and everywhere. Great mass meetings in all the cities, street meetings, factory gate meetings are necessary to bring the workers INTO MOVEMENT against the southern mill barons and their lackeys.

In every city of the nation, tag days, house to house collections, shop, mine and mill collections, must proceed at once. FUNDS ARE NEEDED IN LARGE AMOUNTS AND QUICKLY IF WE ARE TO GIVE OUR PRISONERS ADEQUATE PROTECTION.

EVERY LOCAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE, EVERY LOCAL OF THE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL RELIEF, EVERY SYMPATHETIC TRADE UNION, WORKERS CLUB, SPORTS CLUB, YOUTH, CHILDREN'S, WOMEN'S, NEGRO ORGANIZATION, EVERY LANGUAGE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION AND CLUB MUST UNITE FORCES FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR NATIONAL PROPAGANDA AND DEFENSE FUND CAMPAIGN.

## GASTONIA JOINT DEFENSE and RELIEF CAMPAIGN

80 EAST 11th STREET, Room 402, NEW YORK CITY.

Auspices of International Labor Defense and Workers International Relief

Endorsed by The National Textile Workers Union.

YOU WHO READ THIS MUST ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN THIS CAMPAIGN AND ACTIVIZE THE WORKERS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN YOUR CITY. CALL AT THE I. L. D. OR W. I. R. SECRETARY IN YOUR CITY. IF THERE IS NO I. L. D. OR W. I. R. IN YOUR CITY THEN ORGANIZE A CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AT ONCE AND HELP YOUR UTMOST TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THESE PRISONERS. WRITE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS FOR CAMPAIGN DIRECTIONS.