

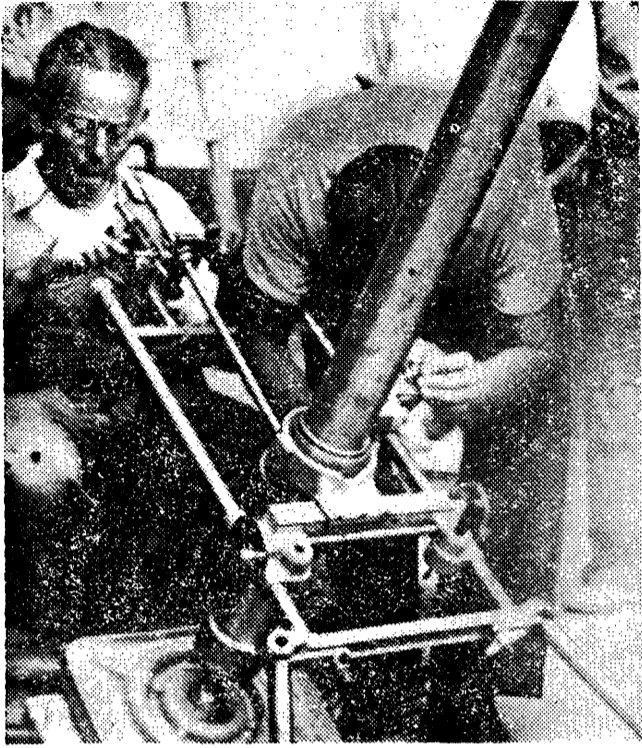
Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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Workers in Madrid study the operation of a trench mortar in the former Jamie I barracks, which have been renamed the "Carlos Marx"

Portugal Openly Helps Rebels; Encirclement of Madrid Feared

Fascists Murder Maurin; Led Marxist Opposition

The New York Times of September 17 brings the sad news of the murder of Joaquin Maurin by the fascists. Caught in rebel territory when the fascist revolt began, he was held a prisoner and finally executed. In a letter received by his friends he informed them that he is to be executed, bids them farewell and encourages them to continue the struggle.

Joaquin Maurin, the outstanding leader of the Communist opposition forces in Catalonia, wielded great influence among the workers. The organization he led was stronger in Catalonia than the Communist or Socialist Parties.

About one year ago Maurin's organization united with the group led by Andres Nin who had broken with Trotskyism. The united organization—Party of Marxist Unity (POUM)—is playing a most important role in the present civil war in Spain. The POUM now, and Maurin before his death, were in fraternal relation with the International Communist Opposition.

The death of Maurin at the hands of the fascist bandits is a tremendous loss at this time, when both the Socialist and Communist Parties are steeped in opportunism and refuse to pursue a revolutionary working class policy in the civil war.

Communists, Socialists Reject Proposals For Socialization

The government forces finally overcame their humanitarian scruples in the face of the threatened encirclement of Madrid, and dynamited sections of the Alcazar fortress of Toledo. However, the fascists have put up a stubborn resistance, retreating still further into the cellars and continuing their return fire. Harsher measures will have to be taken by the government in this war.

The fascists to the south of Madrid are now under the direct leadership of Franco, organizer of the counter-revolution. At certain points they are within ten miles of Madrid, despite the very heroic defense being made by the armed workers and peasants. Radical social measures, which would weaken the rear of the fascists, have been rejected by the Madrid coalition.

The Syndicalists proposed further socialization, a central co-ordinating military body, plus some of their own anarchist decentralization in the form of regional autonomy. Despite the fantastic contradictions in these proposals, they contain certain measures necessary to the successful struggle against fascism, and as such were proposed. However the Communist Party asserted that "we cannot allow duality of power to exist", fearing the possibility of soviets and workers power, while the Socialists declared that "those pushing such a demand should be regarded as traitors". By attacking the anarchist ideas, both parties are able to discredit the really revolutionary and worth while proposals.

Within Catalonia, vanguard sector of the struggle against the Spanish Fascists, the questions of the defense of the proletariat have sharpened the relationships between the government parties of the proletariat and the revolutionary organization, the POUM (Workers Party of Marxist Unity). The Socialists, Communists, and Anarcho-Syndicalists, along with the left-republican Esquerra, have proposed greater governmental "co-ordination" on the basis of the defense of the republic. The Communist Party has once again declared its opposition to the proletarian revolution, because their "sole purpose is to defend the republic and our right to live". The Socialists demand "absolute republican co-ordination", acceptable to all government parties, the political logic of which means, eventually, the suppression of the revolutionary organizations of the proletariat.

At present it is very clear that the strength of the POUM lies in the potentialities of its program rather than its immediate size—but in this united front for the defense of the bourgeois republic, can be seen the foreshadowings of the reprisals that will be attempted against the POUM when the armed uprising for the proletarian revolution appears on the order of the day. For it is the POUM which "refuses submission to Madrid and its democratic program."

UTW Reelects McMahon More Unions Back CIO

Rieve Defeated By McMahon After Sharp Fight; Typos Back CIO After Green Appeal Fails

The convention of the United Textile Workers, being held in the Hotel Delano, New York City, re-elected Thomas F. McMahon to the presidency by a majority of about 50 votes, after a bitter fight had been made to unseat him and elect Emil Rieve of the Hosiery Federation. It was said in union circles that Rieve's vacillating attitude toward the Committee for Industrial Organization was the chief cause for his defeat.

After a brief but sharp fight between the two factions at the convention, Rieve's proposal to cut down the number of vice-presidents from 5 to 3 was defeated. The convention then proceeded to re-elect Francis Gorman as first vice president. George Baldanzi of the Dyers Federation defeated Kelly as second vice-president and John A. Peel, Horace A. Riviere and Joseph R. White retained their posts of third, fourth, and fifth vice-presidents respectively. James Starr was reelected Secretary-Treasurer. Among the 14 members of the Executive Council many new elements were elected. Among them are Chas. Vigareto of Paterson and the progressive William Schaeffer of the Knitgoods Workers Union.

Altho the resolution on the CIO has not yet come up for a vote its approval is a certainty.

The Committee for Industrial Organization made considerable headway in the course of the week. The Rubber Workers Union went on record at its convention for the CIO. This action was unanimous. Much more surprising and therefore most welcome was the action of the convention of the International Typographical Workers where considerable opposition to the CIO was expected. William Green himself addressed the convention but failed of his mission, the vote being almost unanimous. A last minute attempt by the few opposing delegates to submit the question to a referendum and take

no action at the convention was attacked by President Howard as a subterfuge and was defeated.

In addition to these internationalists, the California State Federation of Labor went in favor of the CIO and urged the executive council to withdraw the suspensions pending the A. F. of L. convention. A group of about 65 delegates to the New Jersey State Federation of Labor put up an effective fight for the CIO but succeeded in securing only a neutral position. The convention went on record not to take a stand on this question.

DUPONTS HELPED NAZIS TO REARM

The vast network of the Dupont holdings in munitions extended to German firms, it was revealed by the Senate Investigating Committee. Like all good capitalist patriots, the American tycoons have substantial holdings in the very armament trusts which have been utilized by the Nazis for German rearmament in violation of the "sanctity" of the Versailles treaty. Secondly, they have an agreement with Kohl-Rottweiler, a large German munitions firm, for exchange of patents and inventions, and one to divide territory so as to eliminate any unnecessary competition in garnering the profits of the merchants of death. It was also shown that when the Duponts were engaged in manipulating a shady deal for smuggling arms into Germany via Holland, the British Imperial Chemical Industries were informed of this move and acquiesced!

The latter occurrence sheds interesting light on the meaning of "neutrality" and its effectiveness in preventing war

FRENCH BOSSES GAIN THRU BLUM

The textile strike of the French workers was settled by the frantic intervention of the People's Front government, which feared that the movement might result in another wave of strikes, this time with political implications as regards Spain. The major demand of a wage increase of 15% was settled by an increase of 6%. It must be remembered that the demand for more wages was an absolute necessity because of the very rapid rise in the cost of living. It is very likely that the same method will be used by the bourgeoisie to negate these gains of the workers.

The wage issue was not made primary by the employers, however. For them the question of factory committees was of the greatest importance, and here they won their point. Whereas before the strike, there were general factory elections, the new agreement specifies that all factory votes must be on the basis of the craft divisions in separate gatherings. General industrial meetings gave too free a rein to "agitators" and make for "sovietization" in the eyes of the employers. It was also agreed that striking workers cannot occupy the factory. Both these factors constitute distinct setbacks to the workers and show clearly the role of the People's Front as a "labor arbitrator". The bourgeoisie could find no better at present. When the employers declared that "they are tired of having to get passes to enter their own factories. . . they are tired of soviets in their factories", James Minifie, writing in the Herald-Tribune, commented that: "there is not a line of the above demands that the People's Front government does not heartily subscribe to. The government is as anxious as the mill owners to put an end to occupational strikes. There is every indication that the General Confederation of Labor shares this view. But the workers . . . are hard to bring around to the new viewpoint."

STEEL IMPROVING? —PROFITS ARE

STEEL, every worker will be glad to know, looks forward to a most prosperous year. Production in the first seven months of 1936 was equal to the entire annual production of 1934 and represents a 38% increase over the same period for 1935. It is further estimated that there will be practically no late summer letdown before the Fall season gets into swing. Pity the poor corporations who just can't afford to pay union wages—expending all their available energy to rake in the profits.

MICHIGAN F. L. P. REJECTS LEMKE

Loses Farmers' Union By Approving Lemke On Some Other Ticket

OWOSSO, Mich.—A left jab to the Reverend Father Charles E. Coughlin's political solar plexus prevented the placement of William Lemke and Charles O'Brien on the ticket of the Michigan Farmer Labor Party in the positions of presidential and vice presidential candidates, at the party's nominating convention here Sept. 12th.

The barrier to the Union Party's use of the Farmer Labor emblem on the Michigan election ballot, however, was accomplished only at the cost of a wide-open split in the organization. As soon as it became evident that the overwhelming majority of the delegates would oppose the naming of Lemke, a large faction of the Michigan Farmers' Union, the largest and only mass organization the party could officially claim bolted the convention and marched next door to hold a joint meeting with members of the National Union for Social Justice and Townsend Club representatives. Their avowed purpose was to nomi-

(Continued on Page 4)

MICHIGAN FARMER-LABOR PARTY SPLITS ON LEMKE ISSUE

(Continued from Page 1)

nate Lemke and O'Brien on the Third Party ticket.

The synthetic Michigan Farmer Labor Party, bereft of most of the organized farmer element and facing the loss of the bona fide trade union delegates from the auto centers who packed the convention in an effort to stop the Lemke endorsement, will be left with a handful of persons almost exclusively from the Detroit area. Even before the split the Wayne delegation accounted for 80 percent of the 840 delegates present.

The rump convention which split off the main body was based on get-rich-quick enthusiasts from the share-the-wealth club, misguided zealots of the Coughlin groups, and foxy grandpas from the Townsend clubs and they took with them dozens of sincere members of the Farmers' Union who like Lemke and want to vote for him even at the expense of breaking up the Farmer Labor Party.

The Coughlinites, established in the galleries, started the fireworkers by hooting, singing their songs, throwing down Coughlin material, and demanding the American flag which the CP promptly produced.

The compromise of giving a greater proportion of delegates to the Farmer Labor clubs didn't satisfy the farmers because they weren't so hayseed as not to see that the hall was packed with Wayne County delegates. Their chief complaint was that the auto union with 20,000 members in Detroit, received one delegate for every 35 members and only paid \$15 for initiation fee while they paid \$2.50 per head.

Judge Jeffries, pulling the dramatic, made a motion to make everybody present delegates, including those in the galleries. Sugar and Brock issued forth with some fancy Peoples Front phrases: "I hope people believing with me will accord respectful silence to the other side." (Brock)—"I hope for harmony on the theory that the workers and farmers have one thing in common, that Americanism shall prevail."—"You farmers have a chance to vote for Lemke on another ticket."—"Those who say we want to prevent farmers from voting for Lemke are deceiving you."—"I'm fighting for the democratic institutions of this state." (Sugar).

The greatest tragedy arising out of the mess the Farmer Labor party finds itself in is the widening of the breach between the farmers organizations in Michigan and the trade union movement. It was the latter which packed the convention at the last moment to prevent the nomination of the man the farmers really wanted. Now the farmers are for the most part out and boiling mad at the trade unionists. The trade unionists, will also pull out, and the bare skeleton of the party—petty busi-

ness men, doctors, lawyers, and having accomplished their purpose, judges from Detroit, the Communist party and its playmates, and a few small local unions—will be left to face the elections without even a pencil to mark a ballot with.

When Maurice Sugar and other leaders of the party spoke against seating the delegates from the NUSJ, OARPC, etc., no clear criticism of Lemke as a dangerous threat to workers and farmers was made. They merely begged the delegates to leave Lemke off the ballot so party members could vote for whom they pleased and pointed out that Lemke could use any other of the 13 political parties in Michigan, but please, not ours.

—RALPH WARNER

ST. LOUIS ANTI-FASCIST BLUES

Earl Browder, Communist candidate for President, spoke in St. Louis at the biggest meeting the C.P. ever held in this city. Banners around the hall bearing slogans, "Communism is 20th Century Americanism" and "For A Free Happy and Prosperous America" indicated in advance the tone of Browder's speech. Introduced as "Kansas' leading citizen—the John Brown of 1936", Browder "did everything but endorse Roosevelt" to quote even the capitalist press.

Stating that the main issue was between democracy and fascism, Browder tore into Landon as "the banner bearer of the fascists". Browder resorted to a distorted "exceptionalism" to prove his mechanically transferred immediate fascist danger. He stated that the American people expect a fascist to be colorful like Hitler or Mussolini, but that Wall Street-Hearst-Liberty League was fooling them by putting up the most colorless figurehead they could find in America. At least Browder's imagination does not lack color.

Browder then touched briefly on Roosevelt's indecisiveness in the face of pressure from both progressives and reactionaries. His omission of many major criticisms of Roosevelt in comparison with the broadside against Landon plus the carefully added statement that the C.P. did not have a chance to win the elections showed definitely where his sympathies lie.

No doubt many workers who voted for Roosevelt in 1932 went away from the meeting satisfied that although they voted once to get a "new deal", they can remain in the same old rut to "stave off fascism."

The St. Louis Unit of the CPO issued an open letter pointing out the indirect class-collaboration policy of the CP in supporting Roosevelt. The letter was well received.

BOOKS of the AGE

HITLER. By Rudolf Olden. New York, Covici, Friede, 394 pages. \$3.00.

Rudolf Olden, with the systematic training of a good German, has left no stone unturned in checking every important item in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. He travelled to places where the dictator was born, where he had his early and his later schooling. He interviewed his early companions and his later associates, with only one purpose in view, to verify what Hitler said. And he proves to us, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that Hitler is one of the world's greatest frauds. We see that episodes which never took place are reported with great fanfare in *Mein Kampf*, and others so highly colored that they lose all resemblance to the original event.

What then is the secret of this man's power? This man who has always had such great contempt for the masses, such contempt for parliamentarians, such contempt for everyone but himself? Olden seems to think its his power of concentration on one single idea, and his repetition of simple thought—a slogan—a thousand times, until everybody, including himself, seems to believe in it. Hitler contends that since the masses are unable to do the simplest reasoning, they can only understand a thought when they have heard it repeated again and again and again. Secondly—Hitler's unbelievable capacity for holding on, like a bull-dog, in the face of all adversity. He was never known to give up even when the struggle was apparently lost. His climb to power was also aided by the extremely wretched condition of the middle classes and by the liberal support of the leading bankers and industrialists who were promised "class peace" and greater profits.

After a decade of struggle the National Socialist Party had become: "A state within a state, with its own Reich officers, provincial governors and ambassadors. It had an extensive news service, a public and secret police force. Its army took advantage of its new relations with the Reichswehr and kept a check on the officers' political views."

The book is not only a story about Hitler but a very enlightening history of German politics during the last fifteen years. It is marred, however, by a very heavy translation in the first part. But the translation gets better as the work continues, and the chapters on Hitler's rise to power, the Reichstag fire, the June 30th purge and the concluding chapter, make fascinating reading indeed.

—Ellen Ward

A.L.P. WILL RUN OWN TICKET

The American Labor Party will have one or more local candidates in New York City on its own ticket and will not endorse the candidates of any other party in the Metropolitan area, the State Executive Committee of the party announced early this week. A committee of seven, headed by Sidney Hillman, President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, has been empowered to decide for which local offices candidates will be designated on the party's ticket and to make nominations accordingly.

The American Labor Party's ticket is headed by President Roosevelt and Governor Lehman, but doubt existed as to the policy on other candidates. So far as New York City is concerned, the present decision, made at a meet-

CANADIAN TRADE UNIONS MAKE NEW GAINS THRU MILITANCY

The Pocketbook Workers Union won its first victory several days ago after a strike of about a week. Previously there had been no union in the field for 5 years. The industry is very small, but growing rapidly. It consists of 10 shops of 450 workers, 70% of which are French. The manufacturers put up a stiff fight against the union and recently called on the French workers to join the Catholic Syndicate as a union of their own people. The Catholic Syndicate co-operated closely with the manufacturers, but the French workers saw that this so-called union had nothing to offer to them and they soon returned to the Pocketbook Workers Union. The conditions in the trade were very poor some workers receiving as low as \$4.00 per week. The union put out demands for 15% increase in wages, 44 hours instead of 48 hour week, an arbitration board for both Toronto and Montreal and minimum wages to be established under the Arcand Law in Montreal and the Industrial Standards Act in Toronto. (The Toronto Union recently had gained the last two demands but had postponed their establishment until Montreal would be in a position to establish the same conditions).

When the majority of the manufacturers refused to accept the demands the union called a strike in which almost 100% of the workers participated. Before the week was over four shops issued a statement to the workers accepting the demands of the union and asking the workers to return to work. By the end of the week all the shops settled, the union winning all the demands except for the 15% increase in wages which was reduced to 7½% increase.

At the town of Cornwall, Ontario, 1,500 workers are entering the fourth week of their strike against the Courtald's rayon mill, a branch of a British firm. Just previous to the calling of the strike, the workers, organized in the Industrial Rayon Workers Union, applied for affiliation to the United Textile Workers Union. The workers who are very poorly paid and work under extremely poor conditions are out for increase in wages, recognition of the union and improvement of

ing of the Executive Committee which lasted beyond midnight, the doubt is now resolved. No other Democratic or Republican candidates will be endorsed in New York City and such other nominations as are made will be solely on the Labor Party ticket.

The committee of seven consists of Sidney Hillman, chairman, David Dubinsky, William S. Wilson, Andrew R. Armstrong, Luigi Antonini, Alex Rose and Louis Waldman.

LOCAL 22 MEMBERS APPROVE A.L.P.

The membership of Local 22 ILGWU voted overwhelmingly to endorse the position of its executive board in affiliating with the American Labor Party. The vote was taken at 8 district membership meetings held between the 8th and the 14th of September and resulted in 1677 votes being cast in favor and only 114 again.

The same membership meetings also approved the financial report; endorsed the report of the executive board on various trade problems and enthusiastically responded to the \$1.00 tax to help in the organization of the steel industry by the Committee for Industrial Organization.

working conditions. The owners had entered into negotiations, but refused to recognize the union or its representatives, and on this basis broke off negotiations.

Although the strikers have carried on a disciplined strike campaign the provincial police have been called in and have twice attacked the strikers, once arresting sixteen strikers and a second time driving a car into a picket line and wounding a girl striker. Many arrests have been made of strikers, many without even placing charges. Frank Love union organizer, was arrested on the charge of illegal picketing and was refused bail until his trial a week later when he was given a suspended sentence of 2 months.

The strikers have put up a strong stand and have won the support of many of the workers of Cornwall. Union sentiment is spreading rapidly and the Amalgamated has sent out organizers to organize the few large clothing shops located in the town.

Lenin Said:

TO hope for peace from the negotiations and communications of the bourgeois governments would be self-deception as well as deception of the people. (Page 45).

At best the government may manage to postpone the crisis but it cannot save the country from hunger. And no matter how many promises it makes, it cannot give the country freedom because it is bound by blood ties to the interests of the capitalists and the land-owning nobility.

That is why it would be the most foolish thing imaginable to tie our hands by the tactics of confidence in and support of a government which is incapable of breaking with imperialism.

That is why the most foolish thing we can do is to adopt, supposedly for the purpose of 'fighting reaction', the tactics of giving confidence and support to the government. (Page 78).

Our slogan is: No support to the government of Guchkov-Miliukov! He who says that such support is necessary in order to fight against the restoration of the monarchy deceives the people. (Page 84).

No support of the Provisional Government; exposure of the utter falsity of all its promises, particularly those relating to the renunciation of annexations. Unmasking, instead of admitting, the illusion-breeding 'demand' that this government, a government of capitalists, cease being imperialistic. (Page 107).

The fundamental question is: which class is waging the war? The capitalist class, tied to the banks, cannot wage any but an imperialist war. The working class can. (Page 96)

Outside of socialism there is no deliverance of humanity from wars, from hunger, from the destruction of millions and millions of human beings. (Page 114)

From—THE REVOLUTION OF 1917, Volume 1.

NOTE: The quotations printed in the previous two issues are taken from "The Collapse of the Second International" a pamphlet published in England in 1915. Our readers will find it (an improved translation) in Lenin's collected works—pages 274 to 322 in the volume on "The Imperialist War."

LET'S GO! To the
ANNUAL DANCE
of the **NEW WORKERS SCHOOL**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10th
Tunes fashioned by the famous
LOU ROSS' ORCHESTRA
Don't Forget!
IRVING PLAZA HALL
15th Street and Irving Place