WE WANT NO BOSS WAR, NO EXPEDITIONARY FORCE!

LET LABOR VOTE ON WAR!



A LITTLE In This Issue of Labor Action

Diary of a Migratory Workers	٠	•		٠	Page 2
Fish and Chips in England		•	•	•	Page 3
Breakdown of Soviet Economic Planning					
Letter from a Brewster Worker		•	•	•	Page 4
Editorial: Soak the Rich!	•	•		•	Page 4
The Imperialist World at War	•	•	٠	•	Page 3

Company Thugs Black - Jack URW Organizer

Organizing March of Goodyear WorkersRepeated Acts of Violence Fail to Halt

By R. FERGUSON

AKRON, Ohio, Feb. 24-In a vicious recurrence of gangster vio- in the industry, has added another lence, five men thought by unionists to be "squad men" of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., assaulted John House, organizer for the United Rubber Workers of America, as he sat in his office in Gadsden, Ala., last week and beat him into unconsciousness with blackjacks. Eighty stitches had to be taken in his head!

House had been sent to Gadsden to carry out an organizing drive for the URWA among the Goodyear workers there. Gadsden was the scene of a similar vigilante action against a corps of union organizers in 1936, which included S. H. Dalrymple, president of the URWA, all of whom were badly beaten.

The Goodyear company, long known as the backbone of reaction bloody chapter to its annals as it prepares to grab off more millions in "defense" orders. Previous chap-

ters include the beating of a dozen unionists in the Gadsden plant over two years ago, which resulted in 80 URWA members quitting their jobs in fear of their lives; the assault and beating of two organizers in Jackson, Mich., where Goodyear had opened a new plant; running AFL representatives out of St. Mary's, where Goodyear was con-Ohio, structing a new factory; the allnight riot brought on in May, 1938, by Goodyear thugs and Akron police; and countless other "minor"

condition and that they haven't been

blinded by false appeals to their pa-

triotism. So the word is: Go slow;

don't do anything to alarm the work-

ers, to make them realize to the full

extent that all this talk about "de-

fense" and "democracy" is just so

much blarney. And, above all, do

nothing to make them distrust their

"leaders" - Roosevelt, Green, Hill-

But the stooges of capitalism can

afford to come out into the open.

Congressman Smith of Virginia tried

to amend the bill appropriating hun-

dreds of millions of dollars for 200

merchant ships by prohibiting closed

shop agreements-that is, he tried to

freeze unions out of such construc-

tion work. This was defeated by a

Then Congressman Vinson of

Georgia, chairman of the House Na-

val Committee, introduced a bill to

compel 60-day delays in strikes in

industries working on naval con-

tracts, a bill with language so broad

that it would prohibit strikes in all

industries having any connection

with "national defense." Other pro-

visions would compel arbitration

while maintaining the status quo

during the 60-day period, violators

of the law being subject to fine and

imprisonment. Of course, he over-

looks the fact that one very impor-

tant reason for continued strikes is

that there is a failure of "manage-

ment to accept the laws on the stat-

Stooge No. 3, May of Kentucky,

chairman of the House Military Af-

fairs Committee, stated that he

would seek the same restrictive leg-

islation for all work on army con-

tracts. Not to be outdone. Dirksen

of Illinois wants to end union hiring

halls in the maritime industry, to

revoke licenses of "undesirable" ra-

diomen and to compel mediation and

pre-strike waiting periods (to give

the bosses a chance to muster their

forces against the prospective strik-

ute books." (Knudsen speaking.)

intimidations of workers asking for their elementary rights.

House is still in the hospital, while Gadsden city officials and Goodyear authorities issue statements of "regret," "we tolerate no lawlessness," and similar bunkum to appease public wrath. The Akron Beacon Journal rushed into print the next day with an editorial, "We Can Point No Finger" - drawing the "lesson" that rubber workers have also been known to use violence on occasion! To this the union promptly replied with a denunciation of the "commercial press," and a description of Goodyear's labor policy.

An instructive lesson can be learned from this attack on House. The rubber barons, in conjunction with the steel and textile autocrats of Wall Street, are determined to tolerate NO kind of unionism spreading into the South. For House, whom Goodyear in Akron has always regarded as a "reasonable" labor leader, represented the most

conservative wing in the URWA. In fact, House was unseated by the Akron Goodyear local of the URWA from his seven years' presidency of that local in the elections last fall precisely because his "reasonableness" had led to his local being the weakest among the large rubber

The national organizing drive of the URWA cannot be stopped by this brutal attack. In Akron it should only stir deeper the hatred of Goodyear workers and make them press with more determination their drive

against the speed-up and eight-hour day program of the company. The new local administration in Akron has raised the demand for a 20 cent hourly increase in pay and all signs point to a steady growth of the depleted union ranks.

Goodyear's announcement recently of a 1940 profit of \$10,000,000, the highest in a decade, indicates that the profit-hungry bosses intend to defend and extend the exploitation of their workers to the limit. The wearing of identification buttons and pictures by everyone in the plants is a step in the psychologizing of all to submit to the complete hogtieing of labor in the coming period when Roosevelt plunges the nation into the war.

AT THE HARVESTER PLANT



Congressmen Loose Anti-Labor Drive

But Stooges Act

vote of 163 to 21.

Jingo Politicians Hide Behind "National Defense" Smokescreen

By H. RENTNER

and abetted by big business leaders, are trying to utilize the "National Defense" drive as their long-desired chance and excuse to smash the labor movement by outlawing strikes and forcing restrictions upon trade union action.

Despite diplomatic denials by Knudsen, Hillman and that wellknown pro-labor organization, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, of the need for restrictive legislation, the clamor continues unabated. Realizing the need to go slow, to creep up on one's opponent and then jump him when he's off guard, the labor skates and industrialists in charge of the war drive make these disarming statements.

Continued strikes in all war industries: , Allis - Chalmers, Vultee, Phelps-Dodge Copper, Alabama Drydocks, Vanadium Corporation, Motor Wheel Corporation and others

CIO Will Ask Run-Off Poll At Aero Plant

LOS ANGELES-A run-off election between the CIO and the AFL. was expected at the North American Aviation plant here, following a ballot in which the CIO failed by 46 votes to obtain a clear majority of the 6,465 votes cast.

The CIO autoworkers union obtained 2,739 votes while the AFL machinists got 2,693 votes. Nine hundred eighty-six ballots were cast against any union representation.

Since the CIO has a live union in the plant and is confident it can swing over more workers, it announced today that it would demand an immediate run-off. The AFL counts on getting the

"anti-union" vote through company pressure, since the company's stooges have been doing a job trying to keep out the CIO at any cost, even joining the AFL to do it.

The CIO waged a spectacular campaign to convince the North American workers to join a militant industrial union. All CIO unions in this area sent out special organizing squads, and organized demonstra-(Continued on page 3)

Many More to Come

That good friend of labor, Congressman Clare Hoffmann of Michigan, tops them all. He has introduced a bill which would virtually bar all union members from working in defense industries.

In addition, Chairman Sumners of the House Judiciary Committee, a committee well known as anti-labor, is going to "investigate" strikes in to join in the defense campaign.

prove conclusively that the workers plants working on defense conrealize their chance to better their tracts. And we can feel certain that there will be many similar measures proposed by these congressmen who are so solicitous about "defending democracy abroad" while doing their utmost to destroy democratic rights at home.

> In fact, many of them don't know the meaning of democracy at all, the widespread existence of poll taxes in their states being only one indication of that. As the CIO Union News Service says: "War hysteria has always provided an opportunity for the forces of reaction to get in their dirty work under cover of the prevailing excitement. In such a period . . . jingoism can be passed for patriotism. Labor organizers can be denounced as subversive, and ordi-

nary union activity called sabotage.' While the workers are called upon to make sacrifices in the name of defense of democracy, our so very democratic War Department tries to get exemptions from the labor laws for the big corporations, as was recently illustrated by its abortive activity on behalf of the canning industry

corporations. When big business is concerned, the law of the land loses its sanctity. But these pious hypocrites cry out with horror when labor seeks to safeguard, more often to get, elementary democratic rights and a bare living. We must never forget: democracy is defended by fighting for it and by protecting it at home. Our motto must be: protect and extend labor's rights; higher wages, shorter hours; bigger and better

International Harvester Strikers Remember the Haymarket Martyrs

Special to Labor Action

CHICAGO-In the fourth week of their strike against the International Harvester Company, Local 101 of the United Farm Equipment Workers Association, CIO, chose Washington's Birthday to show the company bosses that they remember the Haymarket martyrs.

More than 1,500 workers heard Lucille Parsons, 82-year-old widow of the martyred Albert Parsons, draw the lessons of 53 years ago:

"You are organizing again today for those same principles that drove the capitalist class to hang those five You are still slaves - wage

slaves-so long as you can be locked out of a factory that your sweat and labor built. The capitalist press will call you all kinds of names, but you got that factory closed down. Keep it closed until you get what you're fighting for."

These fighting words came from a woman so enfeebled by age that she had to be carried from the platform -a woman who all her life has served the working class, despite terror and deprivation.

Fifty-three years ago labor was waging a bitter struggle for the eight-hour day. On May 4, Albert Parsons and several other labor leaders were arrested at a meeting called to protest the murder of six strikers at the McCormick plant on May 1. At the protest meeting a bomb was thrown, by whom has never been lcarned, though the evidence pointed to the police. Parsons and eight others were arrested and framed-accused of having thrown the bomb. Five of these, including Parsonsone of the greatest names in American labor history-were hangedwith words of proletarian defiance on their lips.

Frank Stoker, chairman of the UFEWA at the McCormick tractor works, where a strike vote has been taken, declared that his plant has 15 entrances and "when we strike we'll picket all 15 entrances."

The spirit of the strikers is excellent despite the many thousands of dollars the bosses have spent for false publicity and despite doublecrossing in the negotiations. Picket lines are well attended as are the two soup kitchens the union maintains.

assured the American public that he would not send an expeditionary force overseas. Roosevelt was then trying to get elected for a third time. He had to allay the suspicions of the people in order to get their vote.

You may remember that not so long ago President Roosevelt

Well, he was elected. And now comes the truth! Speaking at a press conference, Roosevelt told the reporters assembled that he would allow nothing to stand in the way of "allout aid to Britain" and that he would violently oppose the Ellender amendment to the war dictatorship bill-sometimes called the "lend-lease" bill.

What is the Ellender amendment? The Ellender amendment would restrict the use of armed forces outside the Western Hemisphere. In other words, it would bar an expeditionary force outside the two American continents.

Now this amendment is in itself a fake. United States imperialism has no more business sending troops to South America than it has sending troops to England. Latin America is as much an imperialist war arena as is Asia or Europe—except for the fact that the fighting has not yet begun there. Uncle Sam has announced to the world that the Latin American nations are his private preserves and he wants no poaching there by any power.

The fact that the Latin American people want to be freed from the yoke of American imperialist exploitation just as much as they want to be freed from the yoke of British or German imperialism is of small moment to the capitalist politicians.

Still, Roosevelt's reaction to the Ellender amendment is interesting . . . AND VITAL. Just about up to yesterday, Roosevelt was going through the motions of fakery - no American boy would be sent outside the Western Hemisphere, and so on and so

But that was yesterday, when it was necessary to deceive the American people into voting for him by making his war platform look palatable . . . and when it was considered possible that Britain would be able to take care of things on the European Continent while the United States attended to Latin America and Asia.

The votes are in, and Britain is in a bad way. Wall Street wants to save the British Empire (for itself, to be sure). Consequently, Roosevelt has to prepare the American public for an expeditionary force to Europe.

Soon some hundreds of thousands of conscript soldiers will be ready. Any day, a little "accidental" incident is liable to occur. AND THEN, BANG: THE CONSCRIPTS ARE LOADED ON TRANSPORTS AND SHIPPED TO ONE OF THE BATTLEFIELDS OF BOSS WAR-EITHER IN EUROPE OR IN ASIA.

An incident may not be long in coming. Last week the Germans announced the sinking of a Canadian ship flying the American flag. Nothing happened then. The next time, however, Roosevelt may consider it expedient to raise another "Lusitania"

In the Far East, undeclared war may break any day now. The Japanese are eyeing Singapore and the East Indies. The American brass hats stand poised in their battleships—ready to pounce at a moment's notice.

Hitler may soon attempt an invasion of Britain. Roosevelt may consider that the time to throw American youth into the fray -either by official declaration of war, or undeclared entry.

By this method or that, on one pretext or another, the United States may soon enter the war with its armed forces. Hence the change in tone in American propaganda. Slowly and gradually, Koosevelt wants to accustom the American people to war-all the while deceiving them as to his ultimate purpose.

In just the same way did Wilson act in 1917. Elected on a "No War" platform, he drove the people into war once his seat in the White House was assured.

Wilson loosed his war hounds after receiving a cablegram from his ambassador to Great Britain, Walter Page, appealing for immediate entry to save the investments of the great American banking and industrial families.

The message Page sent in cablegram has likely been orally delivered this time by Wendell Willkie and Roosevelt's personal emissary—Harry Hopkins. The people don't know what Hopkins reported to the President. They are only the men and women whose lives and loved ones are at stake.

ROOSEVELT WANTS NO BARRIER IN HIS WAR COURSE. HIS "LEND-LEASE" BILL GIVES HIM DICTATORIAL POWERS SUFFICIENTLY WIDE TO DECLARE WAR WITHOUT HAVING TO CONSULT ANY ONE BUT HIMSELF OR HIS MASTERS.

But 85 per cent of the American people are against the war. They might have something to say about war entry. They might have something to say about sending an expeditionary force of American boys to Europe, to South America or to Asia.

Why are they not consulted? Why are their lives committed to the sacrifice without their authority. THEY AND ONLY THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE UPON WAR OR AGAINST WAR.

Roosevelt dares not consult the people. BECAUSE, WE RE-PEAT, 85 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE ARE AGAINST THE WAR. Wall Street wants one man to decide. We want the people

Yes, we know that the people will vote NO. Because it is not their war. Because it is a bosses' war!

All the more reason, in a democracy, or what calls itself a democracy, to give the people the right to vote on war.

All the more reason to press Congress to put on its agenda IMMEDIATELY the Ludlow War Referendum Bill which the Administration has consistently sabotaged.

All the more reason for the trade unions to stymie the war plans of the war-mad imperialists by demanding that the War Referendum Bill be made MUST legislation, to take precedence over all war matters now pending in Congress.

All the more reason to take the power of declaring war out of the hands of one man, and give it to the people.

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!

Press Finney Defense Appeal Judge Admits Evidence Was Flimsy

Special to Labor Action

AKRON, Ohio, Feb. 24-Immedi- ,sponded. ately upon the conviction of Ben Finney, Negro student, on a framed charge of robbery, the Finney Defense Committee set in motion its campaign to appeal the 10-year sentence. Defense attorneys Bertsch and Kelly have already arranged for a hearing before the Ohio Court of Appeals.

Pending the hearing, which is scheduled for April, the Committee is seeking funds to release Finney on bail. Every progressive organization in Akron-union, fraternal, social, cultural-has been contacted

Many groups have already re-Several hundred people gathered

at a meeting yesterday, February 23, held under the auspices of the Finney Defense Committee and the local NAACP. Selma Ingersoll and James Thomas spoke for the FDC. Attorney C. W. Quick, executive secretary of the Cleveland NAACP, delivered the main address.

The committee is sponsoring a dance this week at Elks Hall. Bands are donating their services so that all the proceeds may go to the Finney Defense. A series of dances and mass meetings are planned for the coming weeks.

(Continued on page 2)

From the Diary of a Migratory Worker

(Continued from Last Issue)

We moved into Pumpkin Center, the headquarters of many migratory families. We learned that there is no chance of setting any aid at all through the FSA office in Bakersfield. The cotton picking pay is so low the pickers will not work unless the government forces them to by withholding aid. One man very bitterly told us that he hoped something, and he didn't give a damn what, would soon happen to change the whole set-up. He was a respectable farmer from Oklahoma, forced off the land by the drought before he came here. Now with his wife sick and unable to work, they made their home under the shade of a tree while he picked to barely stave off starvation. The FSA refused him aid at present on the ground that there was plenty of cotton to be picked in Kern County for him to earn a living.

Many pickers warned me against going to work at Herbert Hoover's Greenfield ranch. There was much ballyhoo in regard to what fine cabins the ranch had for its pickers, but for a picker to pay \$5.00 a week for the use of a cabin was inviting him to quit eating while working for Mr. Hoover.

My wife and I picked several places in Kern County and everywhere heard mutterings "what we'll do some day." On every hand one sees people forced back into slavery and fighting a constant battle to get the next meal. Every year that the cotton quota restrictions are drawn closer in the cotton states of the South, ten acres more are planted in California. Along with the cotton. California is also borrowing the most vicious evils of the old plantation system: poverty, Jim-Crowism, lower *

We'd Like to **Know Their War Aims**

-by Paul Temple

Bill left the union hall right after the guest speaker wound up his All-Out-for-England talk and found Larry waiting for him near the door.

"What'd you think of the old boy?" asked Bill. "Sounded as if he was going to volunteer himself any minute now. Maybe it would be a good idea to invite him to donate a couple of months' work in the plant, carrying tools, just to let him work off his enthusiasm."

LARRY: Well, I think he made a lot of good points. BILL: Like when he said England isn't run by a choir of angels...

LARRY: Yes, but don't be forgetting what he went on to say. That's where he hit the spot: "You've got to look on this fight against Hitler like a strike. Maybe you're suspicious of your strike leaders but you fight like hell against the boss, anyway." And it's that way I feel about fighting Hitler.

Raised Hitler From a Puppy

BILL: Well, at least it's a good thing you're SUSPI-CIOUS of England. But this bloody war isn't any strike. What would you think of a union leader who's palled around with scabs and racketeers for years and then suddenly announced he's "reformed;"? LARRY: He wouldn't be MY leader, if I could be

helping it.

BILL: Well, that's Gentleman John Bull all over. He raised Hitler from a puppy-fed him on loans, threw him one bone after another in Europe, and didn't say a word when the dog tore at the throats of the German

LARRY: What's the use of bringing those things up now? That's ancient history. But it's the British are fighting Hitler NOW, and we've got to pitch in how we

BILL: All right, that's ancient history. So's the way the company broke our last strike. So let's forget about that too when they ask us to speed up "for the sake of national defense," and some profits ...

LARRY: Look here, if you're for the aims of a strike you get out on the picket line and fight till you win. If your leaders are a bunch of punks, you've got to fight all the harder to make sure they can't sell you out when they get the squeeze. That's it in a nutshell: Are you for the AIMS? Do you want to beat Hitler?

BILL: Not so fast there. Those two questions aren't the same thing. Sure, we've got to crush, Hitler, but you've got one or two things mixed up. LARRY: And what might those be?

BILL: When we had our strike last year, we put out our demands, didn't we?

LARRY: Right. Thirty dollars for thirty hours' work and time and a half for overtime.

BILL: Those were OUR "war aims." But just you suppose that instead of saying openly what our demands were, we answered only: "Our aim is to beat the company. After we beat them, we'll see what we want."

LARRY: That's ridiculous. You can't strike that way. BILL: Sure. But when my Lord Halifax made his speech here, all he said was: "Our war aim is to win the war. After that, we'll see." Maybe he thought we were a bunch of dummies over here "War aims" are what you intend to do AFTER you win the fight. Just like strike demands are what you want AFTER you win. And why hasn't Churchill said a word about what he intends to do after he's whipped Hitler?

LARRY: Well, he's been promising to-

BILL: You mean he hasn't found out yet what he's fighting for, after more than a year of war?

LARRY: -And besides, he's told us in general that he wants a world of peace and security after the war-BILL: Sure, those words are cheap now. That's what they said when they were fighting the Kaiser, too. Churchill and Lloyd George promised the soldiers they would come back to "a country fit for heroes to live in."

And the first thing that happened after the war was an attack on the trade unions. LARRY: Well, they say an official statement on waraims is a delicate matter.

BILL: NOT IF THERE'S NOTHING TO HIDE. What's delicate about telling the German people: "Rise up behind the lines there and tie a can to Hitler and organize your own government democratically and rebuild your trade unions that Hitler destroyed"?

LARRY: Then why doesn't he do it?

BILL: Because that's not HIS war aim. That's YOUR war aim. HIS war aim is to put Germany in a straightjacket after the war, with a dictatorship government friendly to John Bull, so it won't want to nibble at the British Empire and its slave lands. HIS aim is to keep the German workers down after the war, for fear they'll replace Hitler with a SOCIALIST government. Churchill and Halifax and all the rest get tongue-tied when it comes to war aims BECAUSE THEY CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR AIMS.

LARRY: I'll wait and see. And I'll stick by my own

BILL: That's all I ask. But you've also got to stick to your own army. OUR army's the organized workers in this country, and OUR enemies are the Hitlers and their corporals and their big-shot bosses on this side of education standards.

At one place, enough of the pickers got angry at one time to call on the boss without any union to represent them, and demanded higher wages. The farmer told us, "Boys, five years ago I was raising cotton in East Texas. I came here with little more than most of you have. Through the Bank of America and what little cash I had I was able to get this place to farm. The second year, after I didn't make out so well with cotton, I decided to raise something else, but needed another loan to do so. The Bank informed me they would not consider anything less than a cotton lien as sufficient collateral for the loan. I know picking cotton is worth at least \$1.00 per hundred, and a man can't make a living unless he gets it. I was told before the season started this year by the CFA that the picking price would be 85 cents per hundred. I rebelled and decided to pay my pickers \$1.00 per hundred. On the second day, with the pickers demanding the same increase from other farmers in the county, a representative from the Bank informed me that if I did not wake up soon and learn how to operate a farm economically the bank would consider me a poor risk and have to foreclose on my mortgages. Now if you force me to give you a wage I know you deserve, in a short time I will also be competing with you for your jobs. I wish I could find a solution for both of our prob-

The Draft and Tulare County's Wonders

As the day for conscription drew near, the workers became more and more bitter as they considered it a sure thing that all those from other states would be the first drafted (and they didn't say "training for defense" as the newspapers did).

One man showed me a booklet issued by the Chamber of Commerce of Tulare describing the wonders of Tulare County, which he said had wide circulation in his home county back in Western Arkansas. It told how anything and everything would grow in Tulare County, of the wonderful schools and roads, and how "an average American farm family with less than \$1,000 could come into Tulare County between the months of May and November and always be assured of work with the average wage of \$3.00 to \$5.00 for each member of the family. Most of our most prosperous families in Tulare County got started in this manner."

I never met any of those families, and the FSA government camp at Visalia in Tulare County is now housing over 900 who believed in the myth. All who could possibly get out of the state back to their home state tried to do so before Conscription Day, as they felt they would get a better break from their local board and have a home to return to. In one day alone, 35 cars left the camp at Weedpatch for Oklahoma with families rushing home to meet the draft. Many with no homes to go to, or no possibilities of jobs, but feeling that they would be safer on the soil which they knew than in this alien land of irrigation ditches.

The government FSA camps were the only clean camps with water, but impracticable to live in unless one could get work within a mile or two and commute back and forth. Those like the ones at Weedpatch and Shasta consisted of a few cabins, and the rest of the space covered with wooden platforms on which tents could be pitched. The rent was reasonable, but if one didn't have a job and went to a farmer and told him that he was staying at the camp, that usually meant that he didn'a get any work. The reason the farmers gave was that only loafers stayed at the camps, but the real reason was that at many of the camps co-operatives had been set up and the families could get groceries and supplies without being robbed by the company com-

As the rainy season approached, we became more and more interested in a place to hole in for the winter. But as Jesse Roberts, a kid of about 20 years of age, but old for his years, said, "You might as well stay in the middle of the crick as to try to sleep in one of those tents in the winter. My wife and I came out here from Kansas in the spring of 1939 with our entire belongings and great plans for the future. After working all the summer and autumn we had less than we arrived with, and had to go to Camp Shasta for lodgings. They allowed us a tent with a guard marching around all the time, and stricter rules and regulations than I had to live under when I was in the CMTC. December-the inside of a tent was the same as the outside-rain, rain, mud. mud. rain-our clothes, mattress, blankets-even our bones seemed to be wet and chilled through. January, my wife went to the hospital for my daughter to be born. One week they kept her there, and then home with the baby. How in the hell my wife and baby survived I don't know, but we are all well. And that is the type of damn treatment I am to be called upon to go over and fight and protect and to insure myself I'll always be treated worse than I used to treat my dog when I had one."

When the rains came we were at a camp about twenty miles from Bakersfield and, as usual with all the pickers, very low in money. It started one night and it rained all night and all the next day and night. Our tent was just a wet rag, through which water was being poured. The pickers talked of how we could figure that from now we would be lucky if we got one day of dry enough weather to pick. All who could were heading to get below the rain belt as it would not rain in the

ImperialValley until much later or in Arizona hardly at all. We could see nothing else to do, but also head South. So we packed our wet tent, clothing and things and away we started. At the entrance to Bakersfield. the old jaloppy quit rolling-busted rear axle. After getting it fixed and hocking my wife's wedding ring, we, had gas and oil for about a hundred mile trip. Knowing we would freeze and possibly starve if we stayed here, we started again to race against our gas to dry country. We reached the outer limits of Los Angeles where we first gave out of gas and traded a tire for a gallon. Next time it happened we were on Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood. I entered a gas station to attempt to trade something else when the attendant told me: "Trade? No! This company is worth over a \$100,000,000. They can spare you a gallon. They'll never miss it."

South of Los Angeles we decided that the old jaloppy and us must part company as we had nothing else to trade or give away to keep her moving. While sitting at the side of the road, trying to decide what to do about her, a man drove up in a wizened old Buick, and asked us what the trouble was. When we explained, he said the only thing we could do was to abandon it as it was not paid for anyway and we wouldn't dare carry it across the State line into Arizona. But, he added, "If you are going to abandon the car, you won't be able to take your mattress and tent along. I'm going over into Arizona to pick cotton, too. If you will give me this stuff you can't carry around without a car, I will give you a lift into the Tucson area-about 750 miles." We gladly accepted and with a fond look back at the old crate we rode away for Arizona.

Picking "Pima" in Arizona

We worked one day in the Phoenix area and got so damned mad when we went into the commissary that we didn't even stop to eat supper. Regular 10 cent can of beans, 17 cents; 7 cent loaf of bread, 15 cents; cheapest brand of hamburger, 28 cents a pound. My, oh my, and we'd thought that California, with its 12 cent beans, 12 cent bread and 23 cent hamburger, was high!

Next we stopped about 30 miles north of Tucson to seek work. We were told that the A. Cortaro Farms Co. were seeking pickers for both the pima (long staple) and short staple cotton. When we sought them out, we were told that they only needed pima pickers at the moment but that we would be able to make more money in the pima than in the short staple. Nothing to do but accept what was offered to us as we didn't have a nickel to our names and were now getting darn hungry. When we inquired where we were to stay, we were told that our address would be Tent City. The superintendent called a guard to show us our new home.

He proved to be a big fellow, about 6 feet 2 inches, with a deputy sheriff's badge on for the County of Pima. He explained the set-up as we walked over to the city. He explained that the city covered several acres and was divided into streets with the tents already erected on their foundations and numbered as houses on the street. There was a bath house for each street with two water hydrants in the middle of the street. Some old hard wood knots which had been dug up about the place were scattered back of the tents for use of cooking. All bedding and housekeeping equipment to be furnished by the picker. The streets were divided for the purpose of segregating the different types of workers. Streets for families of Mexicans, streets for white "Okies," and streets for Negro "Okies," streets of dormitories for single men, white and Negro.

We learned that a truck load of Negroes and a truckload of whites, numbering about 60 men to each truck, had arrived a couple of days ago from East Texas. The guard further explained there should be no loud noises, no drinking, lights out at nine o'clock and "The city's heavily patrolled. You may visit one another, but not congregate. There are over 7,000 acres of cotton to be picked. There will be steady work until March. And if you play ball with us, you may get a job on one of the irrigating gangs or driving a truck, which pays \$2.00 a

Early the next morning we went to work in the otton. We found the Pima pickers to be cent Papago Indians. We learned that their camp was located about five miles from the main camp. Most of them had never had a chance to work in anything but Pima cotton and didn't realize that with their average of \$1.00 a day they could double their earnings picking the short staple cotton. At the end of a half day, we showed our badges (official tags, such as were given to the soldiers in the last war) to the driver of the water truck and told him we wanted work on the short staple cotton. We were told that as the short staple cotton was several miles away and as there was not another truck to it until the morning, we would have to wait. In the meantime, we decided to cash our cotton tickets to get something to eat. We found that the company office did not honor them, nor did the traveling grocery trucks, only the company store, the Pima Merchandise Store.

Only Through Organization . . .

While lying around camp we talked to a member of the Oktahoma Tenant Farmers Union, who explained the reason the company was so strict about congregating. He said, "All of our people are hungry and want to get together. If they would only allow us to, we will force them to give us a decent-wage. If they don't allow us to, well, let them suffer the consequences. You know all the questions they ask-you when you apply for employment. The one they are interested in is previous military service, as they know the ex-service man is more docile and makes the best slave. But we are making ourselves known more and more. In the past two weeks, through pressure we have exerted, the FSA is not forgetting about us during cotton picking season as they are in California. The State has agreed to give each \$3.00 to match an equal amount put up by the FSA each week to each migratory worker-whether he is picking or not.

The price for Pima cotton picking was \$1.50 per hundred as compared to 75 cents per hundred for short staple cotton. The price for short staple cotton in California being 85 cents per hundred, we knew that the picking must be better. Imagine my surprise when I carried my 12 foot, well-packed sack of cotton to the weighing wagon and found I had only 78 pounds of cotton. The same amount of cotton in California would have weighed 110 pounds. After this experience and living in concentration camps for workers with less than enough for groceries, and sleeping on the sand, we decided to drift eastward again.

In the Rio Grande Valley near El Paso, we found the price of cotton to be 50 cents per hundred; in East Texas, cotton was 35 cents per hundred. In part of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma the price was only 25 cents per hundred. I was told that this was one of the reasons that so many of the pickers drift to California in search of higher wages. At least, east of the Mississippi River, all the farms are not yet controlled entirely by the banks and run as companies, operating thousands of acres of farm land with a manager and with many Jimmy Littles who work like laborers in a large factory -except that they have less rights.

JAMES LITTLE.

On Life and **Democracy** In the Army

We were guzzling a bottle of beer with a buck private near an Army camp here when a couple of officers walked in.

"Don't have to salute them any more, outside of camp, he told us, sighing with relief. "You'd go nuts trying to salute all of them," he added.

And then his face brightened. "Say, do you know that last Saturday night a bunch of the Minnesota boys were at a joint and they had their arms around each

Nobody catching the point, I asked what was so un-

usual about that. "The officers and the men. Two louies and some of the boys. They were singing songs together, you know, and holding themselves with their arms around each other."

He said it like it was the seventh miracle. He still couldn't quite believe it."

You see, he had been a National Guardsman for seven years and was properly trained as an American soldier. He had learned that officers and men don't mix. It ain't Kosher, as they say down South.

Officers and men. That's two different and separate classes. None of this baloney about democracy they feed you in civil life.

And he told us more.

Army life isn't what it used to be a few years ago. They have a million sergeants now, it seems, compared to the old days. A sergeant, and not a corporal, is in command of a squad. Superficially, the vast increases "non-coms" looks like a "democratization" of the Army. The opposite is true. More rigid control is possible over the ranks by having a "spread" in command, by building a huge corps of sergeants between the officers and the men. It's the three stripe boys who handle the discipline of the men. And it's a rule that the officer always backs the sergeant against the men.

"You gotta have control of the men. If he can't take them out and beat the hell out of them, he's through. One of mine didn't last long," the private said, grinning. Behind the barracks is where they settle the question.

How about promotions? "I was a sergeant once. Got transferred and had to start all over again. An officer? Naw, I don't want to be one. Look at all the dough they dish out in uniforms. Over \$700 a year." He was satisfied to remain in the ranks. He was vague about the war. "If you gotta fight,

you gotta fight." He was ready. Why? He didn't know. He was proud of his efficiency in handling machines. "Brother, you could blindfold me and I'll take any gun apart and put it back together again in no time." Such is Army life today.

JIMMY STEWART AND JOHN NOBODY

Another slant on the Army is furnished by telling two incidents related to draft classification.

As most readers know, Jimmy Stewart is a Hollywood movie star. The typical American young man, good looking, a nice guy, a believer in democracy and virtue, etc., etc., etc.

Stewart drew a low draft order number. "I'm ready to serve any time," he told the press.

A few weeks ago, it appeared, Jimmy's number was up. He was to be drafted. And then Major Plato, head of the California Selective Service Board, announced a temporary deferment for Stewart. "Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer asked for it," Major Plato said.

A storm of protest followed. As one movie critic put it in his nationally syndicated column, "What's indispensable to national defense in making love to Hedy Lamarr at \$2,000 a week?" And how will the average draftee feel about that? So 24 hours later Major Plato blandly denied that

Stewart had been deferred by request, but rather he was reclassified because he was 10 pounds under weight. Sounds plausible if you ignore the background as related here, which we hope you don't. But even the new excuse is a flimsy one.

It so happens that an Ohio acquaintance of ours out here was called for his final medical exam. A fellow who's out here for his health.

"When you walk into the doctor's office you know you're near the Army. He treats you just a little better than a dog, but not much. Under other circumstances I sure would like to have smacked him one, the way he growled and snorted," the Ohio fellow said. But to get back to the main point. "It broke the doc-

tor's heart that he had to reject me. At first he thought I was only 25 pounds under weight and he was going to O.K. me, but when it was even more, he said I wouldn't go, at least this time."

So they'll take a poor man who is plenty under weight but exempt a rich man like Stewart who is only slightly under weight. "I told the doctor that while I personally was indifferent to being in or out of the Army, I didn't like the method he went about it, because of the Jimmy Stewart business. Then I was shown

13,000 Young People Face NYA Axe

Are Paid Fraction Of Union Scale For Regular Work

Helen Harris, New York administrator of the NYA, announced last week that 13,000 young men and women are to be fired from NYA before June 1. Dismissals are taking place at the rate of 200 a day under the pretext of "lack of funds." With the exception of the war in-

dustry training projects, every project on the NYA will be slashed beyond recognition. The war-made Roosevelt Administration considers such things as student aid and cultural projects superfluous. Of course, Congress cannot find money for the NYA. It is estimated

that it would cost all of \$700,000 to stop the cuts in the NYA. This is the equivalent of one big bomber. There are billions for bombers, but nothing for the welfare of 13,000

A few months ago the NYA received reams of publicity when it heralded the opening of workshops to train inexperienced youth for war production industries. In New York over 45,000 applications were received for 5,000 openings.

The job-hungry young men and women soon discovered that training was far from adequate. Instead of being trained to be electricians, machinists, etc., they are being trained primarily for single, detailed tasks in production work.

Throughout the country the NYA conducts workshops. One camp was recently opened in Maine. The boys who go there are given \$15 a month. Actual production work is being turned out for only \$4.00 a week!

One of the largest workshops is in Astoria, Long Island. Recently this workshop has been seething with rumors. The story has gone the rounds that the shop work will soon be put on a full time production basis. Of late the practice has been that once you are assigned to a particular task you stay there. Also a vicious system of rating has been introduced and everyone knows that that means if you don't produce you'll be dropped without further ado.

In private industry, for the very same production work that is being done by NYA workers, two or three times the wage would be paid. Many labor unions, including clothing, electrical and furniture workers, have protested against this unfair competition. In the Astoria workshop, girls are turning out army uniforms for \$11 a week, whereas in any union shop they would get two to three times as much.

The NYA fellows and girls can protect their jobs and improve their conditions only by organizing a union of their own. The first steps must be taken immediately if the threatened closing down of projects is to be

At the same time it is up to the CIO and AFL unions of the city to protest this new reactionary move of the Roosevelt Administration and call upon Congress for money for the maintenance and extension of

Finney --

(Continued from page 1) Finney was railroaded to jail in a

trial that reeked with race prejudice. Prosecution witnesses contradicted each other, ran for cover when the defense questioned them, and otherwise made it plain that it was a put-up job to fasten the crime on Finney because he is a Negro. In his last seech to the jury, the judge in several ways insulted the prisoner. Yet even the judge was compelled to admit that the evidence against Finney was mighty skimpy.

"Your conviction," said the judge, "rested on your identification by one woman. The jury thought that was sufficient. I don't know. All I do is what the law directs."

Typical boss judge that he is, Judge Harvey closed the sessions with the same kind of lie that was typical of the whole trial. Right there, before a court room packed with people who had observed a vicious frame-up, the judge dared assert that Negroes are treated with greater leniency than they deserve

because they are black (!!) Finally, he advised Ben Finney, who has been yanked out of college by the frame-up, not to accept bond, but to begin the sentence immediately. "That way," he smiled, "you will serve your time sooner and be ready earlier to start a new life.'

But every worker in the courtroom knew that this talk of a new life is so much blarney so long as prejudice-ridden juries and judges have the right to persecute innocent men because their skin is black.

READ, SUBSCRIBE TO NEW INTERNATIONAL

-A STORY OF NEW YORK'S UPPER WEST SIDE-You Are Notified to Quit These Premises

By BILL O'DAY

The time is 8 p.m. The location: the West "Sixties" near Amsterdam Avenue in New York City.

The street lights are not so bright here. Not nearly as bright as sayon Park Avenue. Maybe some of them are out or perhaps the air of misery and gloom just makes it seem darker.

The streets run downhill to West End Avenue. Not the upper West End Avenue of kept women and professional men, nor the swank of Riverside Drive-one block away. This is the lower end of the avenue. A section of automobile parts factories. used car lots-and lots of just plain

This is a Negro section. What the government housing authorities call -in their smug way-"a neighborhood pattern." This means the segregation of Negroes into houses that crawl with vermin, reek with the smell of hallway toilets, houses with rotten flooring and wooden staircases, houses that would be turned into flaming crematories at the

slightest spark. We visit a young Negro who lives in one of the worst of these houses. He smiles cheerfully as he admits us to the dimly-lit flat. His teeth are white and even, his face round

and rather good-looking. In the next room, two children laugh continually as they bounce on the bed. Then he talks and he seems glad to have someone to talk to. He is unemployed and trying to get relief. He points to the smoking kerosene lamp on the table. "They took out the electric meter," he says. "They gave me notice I have to get out. They're going to tear these houses down." He shows us a notice he received from the New York Housing Authority. It is signed by F. Didisheim, secretary. The last paragraph of this notice reads:

"You are further notified that in case of your failure to remove from said premises before the day of Feb. 27, 1941 . . . legal proceedings will be instituted to obtain possession of said premises." He continues: "The government is

going to tear down these houses and build new ones." He laughs. "I'm all for it but I wish they would tell me where I can go. I haven't any money and all I get from the relief bureau is visits from the investigators." We give him a copy of LA-BOR ACTION and invite him to branch headquarters of the Workers Party in the Upper West Side-916 Ninth Avenue. He says he will come and thanks us for coming to see him. Horseman," War!

It's true. They are going to tear down some of the worst of these tenements, but we are disappointed when we learn the details. They are going to demolish approximately two square blocks of the tenements. In an area now occupied by-roughly-fifteen hundred families, they intend building units to house 660 families. No provisions are made for the rehousing of the dispossessed tenants while the building is under way. No guarantee is given the evicted families that they will be admitted into the new houses. We think grimly of what the well-known "Man from Mars" would say at this callousness, and think more happily of the answer the working class will some day give to the rotten system that breeds such indifference.

Two nights a week of personal visits, canvassing for new readers for LABOR ACTION and the distribution of pamphlets gives us a chance to meet the Negro workers of the area. Our results in this area are encouraging, but always there is the urge to keep going-and hurry! For anyone with an imagination can see -in these poverty stricken streetsthe mounted visitors that are always there: Death, Disease and Famine! Close behind rides the "Fourth

Good and Welfare

by Lefty

WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED if Frank Jackson, Trotsky's assassin, and the participants in the earlier attempt on Trotsky's life who have been jailed, make a successful jail-break in the near future.

Having terrified the Mexican judges, who are refusing to handle the case, it begins to look as if the jail-break method would be one of the most convenient forms of saving face. Such a break would not be hard for the GPU to "arrange" and it would not suffer from the inconveniences of a white-

It is not improbable that the State Department is putting on the pressure to hush things up. The interests of capitalistic hemispheric "defense" in the present war demand an alliance with the USSR. The complete failure to investigate the Krivitsky murder shows that the State Department is wary about embarrassing a possible ally.

EARLIER THIS MONTH WE HAD a very good demonstration of just how much independence Cuba has from the United States. Agitation was begun for the enactment of a conscription law similar to the one that the United States has. The State Department cracks the whip-and Cuba jumps.

THE POLLYANNA BUSINESS DOESN'T seem to be doing so well these days, but a few of the dreadful species, swimming in bliss, are still with us. They are the type of person who says, "I know that the bombing of London is simply terrible, but at least those awful East End slums are being destroyed

What they forget to add is that quite a few of the East End slum dwellers are being destroyed in the process.

A VERY INTERESTING POLL WAS recently conducted by the Akron Beacon Journal on the question, "Is Democracy Perilled More from Within

Ninety-two per cent of the readers responding to the poll voted "yes" on the question. Only eight per cent thought that democracy was more perilled from without. Is it any wonder that the paper buried the story in a little box toward the bottom of an inside page?

POOR, DEAR ELEANOR ROOSEVELT! We can't help wondering if sometimes, all alone at night, Eleanor doesn't feel that her social explorations would be SO much more pleasant if she didn't have to act as a political fall-guy for Franklin

Take last week, for instance. There was Eleanor setting off another trial balloon—this time to the effect that we should all begin to get used to the idea of not buying new cars, "luxury" foods, and other necessities. And all in order that we might help finance Wall Street's war-in which we all stand a very good chance of getting killed.

The question which bounced right back from the working class: "Just how much are YOU going to sacrifice, Mrs. Millionaire?" must have been awfully discouraging to a girl trying to make her way in the world.

It must be pretty tough to be regular when your husband's in boss politics.

WARS ARE DESTRUCTIVE OF OLD ideologies, Mackists have long pointed out.

One of those who have seen a lifetime of work and theorizing go up in smoke is William E. "Pussyfoot" Johnson, old-time temperance movement

It seems that "the three most prominent European dictators, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Joseph Stalin, are teetotalers." Johnson just can't un-

"The devil," he said, "is running this war."

WE SEE BY THE PAPERS that in hearings on the lend-lease bill Frank Knox, secretary of the Navy, stated that the last war was not fought to save the world for democracy. The slogan was simply "one of the shibboleths employed to arouse our war spirit," that's all!

We wonder if we're going to have to wait twenty years again until Mr. Knox tells us that the shibboleth of "fight to preserve the democratic way of life" was just a slogan to get us into a war which will find all remnants of democracy destroyed at its end?

Fortunately, the working class doesn't have to wait for such brilliant if belated insights as Mr. Knox's. A big part of it right now is a little more than skeptical about just why this war is being fought.

Oklahoma's 'Dies' Comm. Runs Afoul Of Editor Dungee's Statement of Facts

By C. ANDREWS

Oklahoma is so satisfied with the perfection of its democracy that it resents any criticism. And just so that it will prove any criticism false Oklahoma has appropriated \$100,000 for a miniature "Dies" Committee which will investigate, among other things, the Oklahoma Federation for Constitutional Rights

The Federation seems to have particularly chafed the sensibilities of Governor Phillips, who denounced it as the height of folly. No one is denied constitutional rights in Oklahoma."

The Negro population of Oklahoma, however, disagrees sharply with the Governor. Roscoe Dungee, editor of the Oklahoma Black Dispatch and a member of the Federation executive committee, answered the Governor's hypocritical wail with a blast on the wolf-fanged Little Dies Committee. Questioned by the committee on the Federation's purposes, Dungee turned the interrogation into an attack on his questioners by making the denial of civil and economic rights to Negroes the main issue before the session. Every time the investigators tried to corner him, their malicious slanders fell afoul of rough facts.

Dungee was not permitted to testify fully on the Federation's program. The very first item of this program refers to a forced confessión. Dungee started to say, "Evidence showed that a special investigator of Governor Phillips, Vernie . Cheatwood, together with two highway patrolmen, had through force and violence extorted a confession from W. D. Lyons. I think this case shows concrete evidence of denial of civil rights in Oklahoma," when he was cut short. The investigating committee hushed him up with, "We don't want to know any more about your program."

The question of civil rights for Negroes was similarly removed from the discussion in a decision made by Senator Thompson, chairman of the investigating committee, who declared that "there is in this country a Negro problem and always will be. Aside from the denial of rights to Negroes, what other denial of civil rights can you recall?"

Pressed for a statement of policy

as to whether the Oklahoma Federation for Constitutional Rights dealt with problems other than Negro issues, Editor Dungee slammed back that he did not agree that a Negro problem MUST exist, and that whatever was harmful to the Negro had a similar bad effect upon white people. Evidence readily poured from his lips with proofs of the framing of white laboring and political groups by the police, even of their

receiving prison beatings. Foolishly the investigating committee asked for a recitation of the Bill of Rights. Editor Dungee was too well acquainted with it for their comfort. Far too many spectacular instances of having avoided it existed in Oklahoma, such as the infringement on the religious freedom of Jehovah Witnesses. The Little Dies Committee did not want this type of testimony. Their very existence and attitude, Editor Dungee made sure to bring out, was the best evidence of the denial of civil rights in Oklahoma.

With Prices Spiralling Up, and Food Lines Lengthening—the British Worker Wants to See World War II Ended

Fish and Chips - - and Mighty Little of That!

TORONTO, Can., Jan. 28-Sir Walter Citrine, visiting here last week, admitted that the British workers would like to see "the duration of the war shortened." Yesterday we received from comrades in England the Nov. 30 edition of a boss daily published in a Yorkshire steel and textile town of 100,000 population. Items scattered throughout the paper give point and added significance to Sir Walter's admission. What follows is a verbatim compilation of pertinent passages from the English daily. The sequence has been rearranged, and sterling figures have been converted into dollars at \$4.80 to the English pound. Only such comment is added as is necessary to interpret the original facts to American readers.

"The announcement that there were some onions in (town) caused quite a flutter among housewives on Thursday, and at one shop there was soon a queue (line-up). There was a distribution to some retailers, but the supply was so small that there was not enough to allow customers

"Lemons appeared to be in even shorter supply-half a stone (7 lbs.) for each retailer. In both cases there is little likelihood of there being any improvement in the near future. There are a few oranges about-but not many-and the effect of the government's ban on the import of bananas will have a serious effect when the supplies are gone.... There is no shortage of English apples at from 18 cents to 72 cents the pound.

... Fish prices appear to be a shade higher. Haddock (one of the cheapest fish on the north England market) is selling around 48 cents per pound. Rabbits are not so plentiful at about 48 cents each.... This Chrismastide there will be fewer turkeys in the shops than at any time since the last war. The price per pound may get to 88 cents."

Headline: "War-time Wages-Average Increase of 10 per cent." Story: "Workers in Britain's principal industries were earning on the average 10 per cent more in July of this year (1940) than they were at the outbreak of the war." But, "On November 1 the official cost-of-living index figure, according to the Ministry of Labour Gazette, was 92 per cent above the level of July, 1914."

Inasmuch as wages rose nowhere near that amount from 1914 to the present, this means that the English worker has to meet a food bill almost doubled in cost with a meagre wage increase-and to line up for it at that! The wages of most workers appeared to have remained stationary while the living costs have spiralled upward. Imagine trying to pay for beans at 72 cents per pound on an average wage!

Little wonder the paper hands editorial bouquets to laborite Ernest Bevin: "Mr. Bevin securing (sic!) agreements...has undoubtedly rais-

ENGLAND AT WAR

1) Cost of living increased 25 per cent.

2) Right to strike abolished. 3) Industrial conscription be-

gun in war industries.

4) Inadequate evacuation and shelter privision. 5) Increased profiteering; in-

creased company dividends announced daily. 6) Capitalist basses retain con-

trol and ownership of industry. 7) Thousands of anti-Nazi refugees interned.

8) India refused independence; 15,000 nationalists arrested. 9) Suppression of freedom of speech, press and organization

in all colonies. 10) Royalist and capitalist "revolutions" urged in fascist coun-

11) Tory control of foreign, Indian and Colonial policy.

-From the British New Leader, January 4, 1941.

Dear Mary:

Glad to hear from you, and that both of you and the children are well. Sis says not to feel bad because you aren't going to be here for the wedding. There isn't going to be any wedding-they are just going to the Justice of the Peace and that's all. Ted has just got laid off for a few days, but Sis says that isn't going to make any difference-not getting married won't give him a job. It's the darndest thing anyway-here we are with the papers full of booming business, cost of living on the way up and people getting laid off. There are plenty of orders but no material to work with. Ted says about 25 were laid off and there are only about 200 working there. Government orders, too. I suppose all the big companies buy up the material, stocking up against a rise in cost, and leave the smaller companies out of luck.

A funny thing happened the other day. I was in the post office mailing a a letter and the girl ahead of me was having an argument with the clerk. She was mailing books to the Panama Canal Zone and wanted the book rate, which is cheaper than parcel post. The clerk told her she couldn't get special rates as they were only for the U. S. and its possessions. She said: "The Panama Canal Zone is a U. S. possession." He denied it. Then she got mad and said, "You ought to know it is. What are all the U. S. soldiers doing down there if it isn't?"

She had something there and he gave her the special rate. We ought to be sending books special rate all over the world soon, at the rate things are going. If the U. S. dickers long enough with England she'll own all England's possessions. And if soldiers mean possession, it won't be long now.

How's Joe these days? I don't hear much from you about his work. Suppose he is busy with overtime. The boys around here say 40 hours is enough. They'd rather see the boss put on another crew than work the overtime.

That's the way it should be. So long. Love to all.

ed the level of cooperation between the workers and the state."

The area served by the paper lies in one of the most densely populated and highly industrialized sections of the United Kingdom-the West Riding of Yorkshire (wool, steel, coal), Lancashire (cotton, steel, electrical machinery, coal, shipping), and No. Cheshire (shipping, ship building). It contains fully 50 per cent of Britain's workers. Wages have always been relatively low here. It has been the custom, rather than the exception, for workers' families to rely

on the "fish and chip" shop six days in the week for their lone daily "warm meal."

In normal times an individual serving of fish and chips costs three \$3.36 per 112 lbs.—then the fish fryprices which they could afford to pay." Indeed, this situation appeared

to four cents. But even this meagre sustenance is now endangered. By November last, the "Fish Fryers Association . . . maintained that if the that 50 per cent of Britain's workers price of potatoes reached \$2.88 to are slated for a fish and chips diet. ers could not supply the public at to have arrived already, for by the

government regulation then newly adopted, "fish fryers would pay only \$1.86 per 112 lbs. of potatoes . . . and at the end of each month the area supervisor would send the fish fryer a check for the balance between the \$1.86 and the average price of potatoes for the area." This suggests

In contrast, we quote this item: "Queen Mary and the Princess Royal went Christmas shopping in Bath yesterday. They bought many toys, assistants carrying armfuls to their

All of which sharply discounts press reports reaching the U.S.A. and Canada that the British worker has a full dinner pail, that there are no food line-ups, that the stores are full of foodstuffs, that the Royal family dispensed with Christmas gifts, that there has been a pronounced "leveling of the classes." The last quote is also from Sir Walter Citrine. In view of the evidence, we prefer to repeat his other quote to the effect that the British workers want to see World

—A Picture of Illinois "Democracy" at Work—

"Negroes? We Don't Allow Them In This Town"

By PHILLIP MARSH

CHICAGO-While the relief load is going down, the proportion of Negroes is rising, Leo Lyons, commissioner of relief, reported recently at a public hearing held by the Illinois State Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population.

"In November, 1939," he said, "41.8 per cent of the total persons on the Chicago general relief rolls were Negroes. It is estimated that by November, 1940, this percentage had increased to 46.6 per cent."

Asked to explain this discrepancy, Mr. Lyons ventured that the rising proportion of Negroes on relief was

Turkey continues to be the big

question in the tense Balkan situa-

tion and the Turko-Bulgarian non-

aggression pact is still causing quite

a stir. The pact is on the face of it

so obvious a diplomatic victory for

the Axis that in anti-Axis circles all

kinds of hidden meanings are given

to it to prove that it is just the re-

verse and that Turkey can still be

counted on to take the field against

the Nazis as soon as they start

The subsequent statement by the

Turkish Foreign Minister Saraco-

glu that "Turkey will oppose with

force any and all aggression that

might be directed against her terri-

torial integrity or her independence"

is being hopefully interpreted in

these same circles to mean that, pact

or no pact, the Turks are not back-

However, facts are not easy to

hurdle. In the first place, it must be

noted that while the Nazis are sys-

tematically moving into Bulgaria to

the point where they have already

established military staff headquar-

ters there, the Turks have as yet

given no sign of opposition. Before

the signing of the pact such occupa-

tion of Bulgaria by the Germans

would have been considered an act

of war, at least so far as the Turk-

Unless one wishes to indulge in

wishful thinking, Saracoglu's state-

ment can be given a very simple and

more realistic interpretation. In the

light of the pact, the statement clear-

ly indicates that Turkey will fight

only when the Nazis move against

Lacking Russian support (the elim-

ination of Litvinoff from the Rus-

sian Communist Party's central com-

mittee and his replacement by the

Russian Ambassador to Germany

symbolizes the continuation of Sta-

lin's solidarity with Hitler) this ap-

pears to be the Turkish position, and

Hitler has once again succeeded in

his strategy of dividing his poten-

tial victims, after which he takes

them over one by one. Whether

Turkey will stand up against the

Nazis should he finish the Greeks

is another question altogether which

Saracoglu may yet have to reply to

One may expect, after the ground

has been thoroughly prepared in

Bulgaria and in Yugoslavia, that Hit-

ler will attempt to force the Greek

capitulation without a struggle. To

counteract this, the Birtish may at-

tempt to bolster up the Greeks with

materials and a British expedition-

ary force. It is not improbable that

this is already being done. One

hears very little these days of the

British forces in Libya. Since the

Italians no longer threaten the Brit-

ish in Africa, Churchill may have

decided to let things rest there for

a while in order to turn his attention

to the more pressing Balkan situa-

tion. The mining of the central Med-

iterranean by the British is probably

intended to keep any Axis reinforce-

ments from going to Africa and will

leave the British fleet available for

action in the eastern Mediterranean.

There seems to be an almost math-

ematical relation between the ten-

sion in Europe and the tension in the

Far East. The reason for this may

be found in the statement that Vic-

tor Purcell, British director-general

of information and publicity in Sing-

apore, made in a recent broadcast

FAR EAST TENSION

in a different sense.

the borders of Turkey proper.

ish press was concerned.

marching against the Greeks.

By MAX STERLING

possibly due to the fact that white persons are more likely to be placed in job opportunities than Negroes!

Meanwhile the vast "defense" program sponsored by a hell-bent-forwar Administration gains speed daily in Illinois. Thousands of workers are resuming employment in the war industries. Chicago and Illinois have snared \$100,000,000 worth of government contracts. Industrial leaders wail louder and louder over the alarming shortage of skilled labor. The "boom" is on.

But the Chicago Negro remains almost entirely unaffected. His status on the relief roll adds to the

that "Germany is moving heaven and

earth to induce a Japanese attack on

the British Empire in the Far East

simultaneous with German attacks

in Europe, Africa and the Near East."

anese have made to strengthen their

attacking position in the Far East

has been countered by the United

States and Great Britain. After min-

ing the approaches to Singapore,

thousands of Australian troops ar-

The attempts by Japan to "medi-

ate" the war between Indo-China

and Thai have been rejected by the

French administrators of Indo-China

because the Tokyo "peace," instead

of correcting a minor border situa-

tion, takes from Indo-China the bulk

of the Laos territory, which runs

about two-thirds the length of Indo-

China, and a part of northwest Cam-

bodia. This rejection has infuriated

the Japanese, who promptly accused

Britain and the United States of "sa-

botaging the Tokyo peace conference

and of putting joint British-Ameri-

can pressure to bear on the French."

The Japanese have advanced the

formula, "East Asian economic bloc

of mutual prosperity" as their equiv-

alent to the "British Commonwealth

of Nations" or the "Good Neighbors

of North and South America." Like

Great Britain and the United States,

the Japanese are no pikers. The Jap-

anese Foreign Minister has already

indicated that Japan will not be sat-

isfied with anything less than the

addition to its present empire of over

1,000 square miles of "living space"

in the South Pacific, with resources

to take care of from 600 to 800 mil-

lion people. The extent of such an

ambition can be seen if we keep in

mind that the largest empire in the

world-the British Empire-contains

The Anglo-American bloc is cer-

tainly determined to frustrate these

grandiose ambitions of Japan. They

have their own grandiose ambitions,

and these are at the expense of

Japan. American imperialism in par-

ticular has long prepared to take the

measure of Japan. The American

fleet has been carefully nurtured for

this task and, now that the British

have granted the use of their basis

in the Pacific to the U.S. fleet, the

brass hats of the Navy can hardly

restrain themselves. The last time

such an opportunity came to them

was during the Spanish-American

war and it is a long time since then.

At that time just prior to the war

they anticipated events with the

toast "Remember the Maine." It is

common knowledge that today, when

the present jingoes raise their glasses

they say grimly, "Remember the

an aggregate of 500 million people.

rived to reinforce it.

However, every move that the Jap-

THE WORLD AT WAR -

Navy's Brass - Hats Watch

The Far East as Japan

Announces Its Ambitions

mountain of evidence revealing consistent discrimination against Negro workers. The Illinois State Employment Service continues to maintain a staggering file of unemployed Negroes whose listed occupations are of all kinds-molders, welders, mechanics, etc. The Chicago Urban League reports that its own employment office is swamped by job seek-

The callous indifference of employers is revealed by typical answers received from industrial heads during an investigation of Jim-Crow plants. A manager of a Chicago firm employing 4,000 workers and holder of \$5,000,000 worth of government contracts, said: "There's not a Negro in the plant; I just had never given that any thought." Another Illinois employer said, "Negroes? We don't allow them in this town.'

Out of more than \$100,000,000 worth of war contracts, reports the Chicago Urban League, not more than \$10,000,000 worth is in the hands of firms that hire Negroes.

The situation is aptly summed up by an indignant Negro leader: "Negroes are blamed for not working and are denied the opportunity to work, That's like tying a man's hands behind him and saying he's

Hearst Breaks Pledge to Guild-Discharges 90 of Reinstated Workers

strikers reinstated in the Hearst plant in Chicago after a strike lasting a year and a half, have again been discharged by the Chicago Herald - American. The management's pledge to end discriminations against members of the American Newspaper Guild was broken almost from the date of the strike settlement agreement. Strikers were promised return to their previous jobs or com-That promise was never fulfilled. The management declared it was not reinstating strikers merely to fire them again, yet it has done pre-

CHICAGO. - Ninety of the 115 cisely that. A Labor Board order to cease discriminatory practices has not been complied with by the man-

> The Hearst unit of the Chicago Newspaper Guild accepts as a challenge the lockout declared by the Chicago Herald-American. It places the Chicago Herald-American on labor's unfair list.

Send your protest against the Hearst management's action to J. D. parable jobs in a reasonable period. Gortatowsky, general manager of the Hearst Enterprises, New York City, and to T. J. White, general manager, Chicago Herald-American, 326 West Madison Street, Chicago.

"All Men Are Created Free and Equal"

The library of the District of Columbia Bar Association in the U.S. "This is not our war." District Court Building in Washington has been ordered to open its doors to Negro lawyers beginning April 1. For years Negroes and women have been barred from these sacred portals. Recently a concerted drive has been in progress to crash the gates. Evidently the spectacle of Negroes and white women in the same boat caused the Attorney General some little embarrassment.

Judge Jonah Goldstein of the Court of General Sessions, New York City, who used to boast loudly (before his election to the bench) of his "Harlem friends," earns this week's prize for understatement. Upon being shown that 11 out of 4.000 citizens called for the grand jury panel were Negroes, he is reported to have admitted "the proportion does seem a little out of line."

The Vultee Aircraft Corp. for its several plants throughout the country has been awarded \$60,000,000 in juicy war contracts. Its management has expressed its gratification at being privileged to contribute to the re-employment of our country's idle workers. The personnel manager of its Nashville plant had the melancholy task, however, of responding to an NAACP query on the re-employment of Negroes. He wrote: "In reply to your letter of Feb. 5,

1941, may we advise that we do not now believe it advisable to include colored people with our regular working force. We may, at a later date, be in a position to add some colored people in minor capacities such as porters and cleaners...

"If I can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to conSooner or later we may learn that

Judge Patterson, assistant Secretary of War, regretfully announces that union barriers to Negroes make their employment in war industries unlikely. An instance cited is the bar in the constitution of the International Association of Machinists to Negro membership. What a neat out the government is thereby afforded!

And how neatly it fits in with the present anti-union agitation in legislative halls. The NAACP is not above making a deal with the reactionaries to support their crippling measures in return for support for bills designed to deprive unions of the benefits of the NLRA where they discriminate against races.

Coolidge Speaks For Baltimore **Emancipators**

BALTIMORE - Despite a heavy downpour, a good-sized audience turned out to hear David Coolidge speak on "The Negroes and the Trade Unions" under the auspices of the Emancipators, local Negro organization, on February 14.

Both Negro and white workers were present, many joining in the lively discussion that followed the speech. This discussion continued long after the meeting had ended as an interesting conversation between some members of the audience and the speaker.

The meeting had been announced by the distribution of a leaflet at a milk plant which employs Negroes and on the main thoroughfare of the Negro neighborhood.

Labor Action 114 West 14th St. **New York City**

Enclosed find 25 cents for which please send LABOR ACTION for 3 months to:

tions at the North American plant to This election is considered crucial for the fate of the CIO and the AFL

win the workers.

The AFL machinists obtained a contract at the new Vultee plant in Tennessee without any serious organization efforts. Since the AFL Vultee contract established a 50c minimum after a year's work, compared to the CIO Vultee minimum of 621/2c per hour, one can understand

Aero Poll --(Continued from page 1)

unions in aircraft on the West Coast. why the company quickly signed

Editorials

OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

- 1. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war. All war funds to the unemployed.
- 2. For a rising scale of wages to meet increasing cost of living. Thirty-Thirty \$30 weekly minimum wage 30hour weekly maximum for all workers.
- 3. Expropriate the Sixty Families. For Government ownership and workers control of all war industries—aviation ,steel, chemicals, railroads, public utilities, etc.
- Against both imperialist war camps. For the Third Camp of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples.
- 5. Let the people vote on war. For the right of youth to vote at the age
- Abolish secret diplomacy. Open the files of the State Department.
- 7. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
- 8. Against compulsory military training and conscription.
- For the defense of civil liberties and workers' rights. Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day Plans and war-time dictatorship.
- 10. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and trade unions.
- 11. For an independent Labor Party.
- 12. For Workers' Defense Guards against Fascist and vigilante attacks. No confidence in the Roosevelt government. For a workers' government
- and a people's army. 14. For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, and for the World Socialist

Soak the Rich!

There is increasing talk about widening the tax base in order to finance the tremendous war program. We can, in fact, expect a series of bills and schemes designed to mulct every last possible dollar out of the American people for this base

The income tax exemption has already been lowered to the point where many workers earning a bare \$800 a year have to shell out in direct income tax payments. This may yet be widened to include those and sinew. workers who are not at present kicking in directly.

In addition, the government is considering various schemes whereby fifty-cent pieces, dollar bills and equal sums will be extracted from labor in a "war savings program." If we can go by the experience of the last war, and we certainly can, the "savings" will not be voluntary. Woe unto payroll amounted to \$129,000,000. the worker (or even the school kid) who Inasmuch as there are 63,000 peop refuses to put up a few of his hard-earned

These direct assessments are being added, and will be added in greater number, to the vast number of taxes which the people already pay. As we pointed out in an editorial some weeks ago, the greater part of the government machinery is not financed by the profiteers who weep loud and long about their tax deprivations. It is financed by the multitude of indirect taxes (on cigarettes, clothing, food, etc.) which are daily forced from the working masses -however poor, however ill they can afford to spare a penny.

In short, by one scheme or another the boss government seeks to foist the burden of war expenditure on the people who don't want the war, who have nothing to gain from the war, who make no profit out of war preparation.

But why should this be? Wall Street wants war. Good! Let Wall Street pay for it. Let Wall Street fight in it.

Millions of dollars are being siphoned off to pay the war hawks huge profits. Millions of dollars more will come to these profit-gorged parasites in military conquest and expansion. Why should we therefore put up a solitary cent (or a solitary life) for this war?

Let the government finance the war program by taxing those who stand to ben-

LABOR ACTION

Official Organ of the Workers Party

Published weekly by the

Labor Action Publishing Company

Макси 3, 1941 114 WEST 14th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. (3rd Floor)

> Editor: JOSEPH CARTER Managing Editor: EMANUEL GARBETT Business Manager: JOHN BILLINGS

Subscription Rate: \$1.50 per year, \$1.00 six months (\$2.00 per year or \$1.50 six months for Canada and Foreign)

Re-entered as second class matter May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

efit from the war—the coupon-clippers and industrial barons. If present taxes are inadequate to meet the cost, increase the taxes on the lords of industry and finance.

And if that is still inadequate to finance THEIR war, fix a capital levy on every coupon-clipping idler in the land. Make them cough up a part of their accumulated wealth. Yes, make them disgorge some of the property and fortune which they have squeezed from the workers in decades of exploitation and wage slavery.

What's unreasonable about that? A tiny fraction of the population—less than 3 per cent-controls 97 per cent of the wealth. A tiny fraction of the population lives in luxury and idle splendor.

While the sons and daughters of working men grind out the wealth of the country in back-breaking toil, the sons and daughters of the rich idle their hours away in night clubs and vacation spots. Every tool ground out by a calloused hand pays its dividend to some do-nothing fat-belly.

Why not soak the rich? It's their war. Make them pay for it in higher taxes. Make them pay for it by a levy on their capital property!

Raise Wages!

Much has been made in the press of late about the rising national income. That seems to be an established fact. Certainly profits have soared to fantastic heights. U. S. Steel profits in 1940 were over \$100,000,000-or about 148 per cent more than in 1939. The same is true in lesser or greater percentage for most of the big industries—especially those doing their "pay-triotic" bit in war production.

But what about wages? Has the wage share increased in proportion to the rise in national income? By no means!

The CIO Economic Outlook points out that a decreasing share of the national income has been going to labor. In fact, labor's share has declined from 77.2 per cent in 1932 to about 61 per cent in 1940. That means that the great majority of the American people are getting less and less of the wealth they create by their sweat

The CIO investigators have proved that in the du Pont factories more profit was made on each worker than was paid out in wages. The du Ponts reported a total profit, before tax reduction, of \$144,000,-000. But the total du Pont payroll, including high salary executives, was \$15,000,-000 less than total profits—that is, the

on the du Pont payroll, the company squeezed \$2,250 profit out of each worker (or about \$1,530 after you allow the bosses their tax reduction). Now, if we separate the "earnings" of the big-shot executives, the average wage in du Pont was less than \$1,500—that is to say, the average wage was less than the average profit on each worker.

What does this mean? It means that this is the time for the workers to demand more wages. The bosses are filthy with money. Money that is sweated out of

This is therefore the time for labor to demand a greater share of the national income. This is therefore the time for labor to demand a rising scale of wages to meet the higher cost of living.

Workers Must Eat

"Workers must eat. Their real wages are cut when food costs rise. That's what is happening now. Government figures show that retail food prices rose as much as 8 per cent in some cities in January as compared with a year ago and that the average increase for the country as a whole was 3.2 per cent."—From the CIO News,

Help a Group of **Colonial Prisoners**

Readers of LABOR ACTION have an unusual opportunity to demonstrate their international solidarity by giving their assistance to the persecuted and courageous anti-war fighters in Africa who have been imprisoned by the "democratically" appointed judges of Great Britain.

We have received an appeal from an outstanding Negro revolutionist now in England for a group of class war prisoners in Africa who have raised their voices against the war and are now confined in jail.

Let us show these militant fighters who are carrying on the struggle against the war in faraway Africa that they are not alone and that the revolutionary workers in the United States are supporting them in their struggle for colonial in-

dependence and against the imperialist war. SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION IMMEDIATE-LY TO: Jack Mann, c/o Labor Action, 114 West how they benefitted the union, the

The Breakdown of Soviet Planning Under Stalin

The recent 18th conference of Stalin's "Communist" Party indicates that the Stalinist régime is near the end of its rope. Behind the more dramatic expulsions of Litvinoff, as a member, and Madame Molotoff, as an alternate, from Stalin's Central Committee lurks the lurid self-confessed picture of bureaucratic bankruptcy. All the manipulations of statistics, which long ago became a "class" science in Stalinland-i.e., a propaganda device-cannot hide the fact that the régime totters on the brink of the grave.

"The more honest we are in disclosing our shortcomings, the sooner shall we be able to get rid of them. Stalin daily teaches us this," said the nonentity, Makenkoff, who delivered the main report, while "the great leader of the peoples, Stalin," sat on the platform calmly watching his lackeys trying to explain away the awful mess into which his gangster régime has dragged the entire national economy. Hypocrisy knows no limits so far as these cynical grave-diggers of the revolution are concerned. "The régime of dirt, topheavy bureaucracy, laziness, armchair administration, and chatterboxes" has resulted, according to Malenkoff, in decreased output, increasing costs and threatened purges in such industries as building materials and lumber, oil, paper, railroad and water transport, aircraft, chemical, munitions, electrical, maritime and fishing. This picture of more or less complete chaos is then dressed up by Voznesensky, chairman of the State Planning Commission, as one of "new Socialist upsurge and furher progress."

FROM PLAN TO PLAN

"On November, 1, 1940," reports Pravda (as quoted in the Daily Worker of Feb. 18), "in eight industrial people's commissariats, 33,000 machine tools stand idle. At 7,629 enterprises, 170,000 electric motors were not mounted. The cement industry last year worked only at 64 per cent of its capacity." This presumably is an illustration of what Voznesensky means when he says (Sunday Worker, Feb. 23): "However, by no means all enterprises and people's commissariats have utilized the possibilities for the growth of production created by the edict of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, dated June 26, 1940." (This refers to the industrial peonage laws which I described in LABOR ACTION of Feb. 3.)

In spite of the fact that Voznesensky's report is carefully enveloped in percentages' and figures expressed in rubles, and in spite of the omission of certain vital figures, it is possible, on the basis of what is given and what is known about the situa-

WHAT THE BREWSTER

MEN WANT TO KNOW

Excuse me for writing in again,

but my letter on the elections that

you printed in LABOR ACTION

brought such good response from

the fellows at Brewster, that I could

By the time this letter is read by

the fellows, elections will be over

and Tom DeLorenzo and the major-

ity of his slate will have been

I want to say now that I have been

around, but I have never seen such

a dull, cut-and-dried election as this

one. The only literature that ap-

peared in reference to the elections

was posters put out three days be-

fore the elections, urging the fellows

to vote for the respective candidates.

There was nothing else-no meetings

on the candidates' records, nor any

literature on what they intended to

How many do you think we could p

All in all, there were three slates.

The differences amounted to, at the

most, who should be president and

on one or two minor individuals.

while they agreed on most of the

And, oh yes, the platform. One

poster said, "Vote for DeLorenze for

a square deal." That was all the can-

didates felt necessary to tell the fel-

lows about their aims, their records,

reclassifications, better working con-

The way in which the election was

carried on was an insult to the en-

tire membership. They were treated

as ignoramuses who do not have to-

know what is going on. The attitude

of the would-be leaders was, why in-

volve the members in this election?

The less they know about the elec-

are as dumb as the nominees think.

They know that in a union run in a

competent and democratic way for

the benefit of the membership, elec-

tions are taken as an extremely seri-

ous affair. The outgoing officials must

give an accounting of themselves,

esent conditions of the union, etc.

But not all the fellows of Local 365

tions, the better off we are.

ditions, affairs of the union, etc.

candidates.

ll out of the shopon THAT line?

not help writing another letter.

Dear Editor:

Our Readers— Take the Floor

tion of Soviet economy at the end of the Second Five Year Plan in 1937. to obtain a fairly reliable picture of the extent of the breakdown of Soviet economic planning during the last three years - years of almost constant and perpetual purges, the Soviet-Finnish war and the Hitler-Stalin pact, which has resulted in Soviet economy becoming more and more dependent on German econ-

The Second Five Year Plan was begun on Jan. 1, 1933, with the fond expectation of "overtaking and outstripping the capitalistic countries" by the end of it, in 1937. One must rub one's eyes with amazement at the proposal of a Fifteen Year Plan, which emanated from the recent conference, and has for its purpose "outstripping the leading capitalist states in the per capita production of pig iron, steel, fuel, electric power, machinery and other means of production and articles of consumption." The fact that per capita production in the Soviet Union declined during the last three years and that it admittedly lags way behind production in the advanced capitalist countries (three to four times, according to Voznesensky, and much more in reality) may not disturb the equanimity of Stalin and his hierarchy. But surely the Russian workers and peasants do not feel overjoyed at the prospect of facing 15 more years of Stalin's rule of promises mixed with forced slavery.

The Third Five Year Plan (1938-1942) was not even mentioned during the year 1938. Except for the fact that it was supposed to be approved by the Council of People's Commissars by July 1, 1937, one would never know that a Third Five Year Plan was even contemplated. In January, 1939, however, it was admitted that "difficulties of reorganization" had delayed the publication of the Third Five Year Plan, but it was nevertheless operating "satisfactorily." The plan was formally approved at the 17th Congress of the Communist Party in March, 1939. Aside from an oblique reference by Molotoff to the fact that the Third Five Year Plan called for a 100 per cent increase in heavy industry and producers' goods during the lifetime of the Plan, one could have legitimately questioned the existence of a Third Five Year Plan, even on

After years of constant sacrifice, the promise that Stalin made to the Russian masses that a temporary period of sacrifice would result in the creation of a land of plenty is completely belied by the official figures on national income given by the same Voznesensky. The national income of the USSR was 125,500,000,000 rubles in 1940, or a per capital annual income of about 650 rubles. The

Nominees running for election must

present a PLATFORM of what they

intend to do, what is their record

and how they are going to benefit

the membership. In other words, the

elections should be used as a means

of educating the membership so that

the union becomes stronger and

means more to the men-that is the

way the elections in Brewster should

But now the elections are over.

Tom DeLorenzo will in all probabil-

O.K., Tom. Here is what the fel-

1. What are you going to do about

reclassification? Are we going to get

an automatic increase of at least a

fort to help us improve the poor con-

ditions existing now, or do we just

lows want to know:

When do we start?

officially announced as 96 billion rubles, or a per capita annual income of about 600 rubles. The increase of 29,500,000,000 rubles is thus almost entirely negated by the increase in population, which is a product of Stalin's expansionist policy and his reactionary social laws, such as virtually making abortions impossible and using the fascist technique of bonuses for large families. But this fails to take into account the purchasing power of the ruble and what has happened to the purchasing power of the ruble during the last three years. The most conservative estimates available indicate that the ruble's purchasing power has declined by at least half since 1937. This indicates that the average standard of living of the Russian people has declined by at least 46 per cent during the last three years. And since the inequality of income in Russia is notorious, this means that the overwhelming majority of workers and peasants suffered a much greater decline in their standard of living. It is highly probable, therfore, that the standard of living of the Russian workers and peasants today, more than 23 years after the Bolshevik Revolution, is decidedly below that which existed under the Czar and can only be compared with that of the Chinese coolie.

national income in 1937, at the end of

the Second Five Year Plan, is now

This decline in the standard of living is in sharp contrast to the growth of the productive forces.

PRODUCTION LAGS

When Voznesensky reports that Soviet production is 534 per cent of 1929 production and goes on to make such a terrific hullaballoo about this tremendous increase as compared with the very small increase in production in the United States between 1929 and 1940, it is first necessary to make a few important corrections and then to give the figures the proper interpretation.

In the first place, on the basis of rough estimates which I made for 1929 production in the USSR, production in 1940 was 288 per cent of 1929-and not 534 per cent.

In the second place, the decisive portion of this very considerable increase took place during the first and second Five Year Plans-not during the first three years of the third Five Year Plan. The increase during the last three years is only about 15 per cent.

In the third place, production during the first three years of the third Five Year Plan was supposed to have increased by about 60 per cent. It only increased 15 per cent. In other words, the plan, if it exists, has only been fulfilled about 25 per cent so far, and this does not take into account the terrific disproportions in Soviet economy caused by the bureaucratic commands entering into the economy as a result of underfulfillment of certain plans and the drive to overfulfill others.

Fourthly, and most important of all, according to official Stalinist estimates, production at the end of the second Five Year Plan (1937) was estimated to have increased anywhere between 8 and 12 times from the productive levels of 1929. So that, even if we accept as entirely accurate the Stalinist figure of 1940 production as being a little more than five times the 1929 production, the régime stands convicted of a

considerable decrease in production. The crisis in Soviet economy has reached such proportions that it cannot be concealed. That is the real meaning of Stalin's 18th Party Congress. And this was only to be expected, for genuine economic planning requires thoroughgoing democratic control of the planned economy by the working population. This, of course, is utterly excluded as long as the totalitarian bureaucracy exists. Correcting mistakes in the plans and flaws in the economy becomes impossible when life is organized on the basis of: Produce according to the dictates of the Kremlin or be shot. The idle boast that the USSR is now independent of capitalist economy is given the lie by the official figures for Soviet production and by the steady efforts made to import machines and machine tools from Germany and the United States. Stalin can only hope to offset the economic crisis, expressed in declining standards of living, declining productivity of labor and the slowing down of the growth of production almost to a standstill, and thus preserve his tottering régime, by engaging in new foreign adventures.

TAKE NOTE!

its very vicious anti-labor tears again. The syndicate that publishes this rotten tripe-New York Daily News, Chicago Tribune, etc.-is owned by the Mc-Cormicks-the same McCormicks who own the International Harvester plant. Once before Little Orphan Fink and Daddy Warbucks were compelled to "tone down" by a labor boycott and union protest. Remember that now!

THE NEGRO'S FIGHT

West Indians Answer Anglo-U. S. Imperialism

By JACK MANN_

The following article was written by George Padmore, English Negro Socialist leader. It appeared in the British New Leader of January 4,

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Roosevelt referred to an extensive collection of some hundreds of thousands of newspaper clippings which he had on the West Indies question. A little over half of them, he explained, seemed to think that the U.S. should buy the whole earth, while slightly less than half were opposed. As an example of public opinion concerning colonial expansion, it shows that it would not be difficult for the press to whip up support for any imperialist move in the Caribbean, especially when it is presented as part of America's "defense" program. 'Any kind of imperialistic or reactionary move is possible in a democratic country so long as the politicians are shrewd enough to dress it up as part of the struggle against Hitlerism! Hitler is a godsend to our home-bred fascists.

The situation facing the British ruling class is forlorn indeed, for even if they succeed in beating Hitler they will have lost part of their empire. For the first time in her history Britain must come out of a war with less territory than when it started, a prospect causing considerable alarm to some

Mr. Churchill, however, has no choice; he is in cleft stick. It is not Wall Street that is begging favours, 'tis the City (London's Wall Street). And there is no sentiment among thieves.

Behind the façade of friendship, the imperialistic rivalry between New York and London continues vigorously. America needs colonial markets, sources of raw materials and strategic bases, and she intends to collect as many of these as possible. Wall Street is out to convert Britain and her Empire (what remains of it) into economic and financial dependencies of the great North American colossus.

Britain is to be to the U.S. what France is to German imperialism. Canada, the wealthiest of the dominions, already stands in this relationship to Wall Street and it will not be at all difficult to extend the process to other sections of the empire.

Whatever is the final outcome of Anglo-American negotiations. West Indians do not intend to allow themselves to be bartered away with impunity. No colored community could contemplate such "transfer" with indifference, for America's treatment of Negroes is not one which recommends her as a champion of colored people. Even if Uncle Sam were the most benevolent fellow in the world, it would have no bearing upon the fundamental principle that West Indians, along with all other subject peoples of the world, have an inalienable right to manage their own affairs.

Thus the West Indies National Council, in its Declaration of Rights of Caribbean People for Self-Determination and Self-Government, presented to the recent Pan-American Conference at Havana, declared:

"There comes a time in the affairs of every people when it becomes imperative for them to examine their conditions of existence and to take such steps as they deem necessary for the protection of their vital interests and for the enjoyment of their inalienable rights of 'life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.' Such a time has arrived in the history of the people who have for centuries inhabited the Caribbean colonies of Britain. France and The Netherlands. . . . Reflecting and expressing the profound sentiments of the peoples of these Caribbean areas, this committee declares that it is firmly and irrevocably opposed to any sale, transfer, mandate, trusteeship or change of sovereignty of these people without the exercise of their inalienable human and democratic rights of self-deter-

Despite the opposition of Secretary of State Hull, the West Indian document was adopted by the Conference. And thanks to the support of Dr. Leopoldo Malo, head of the Argentine delegation, the principle of the right of self-determination was incorporated into the Act of Havana. Thus, in the event of any change in the status quo, West Indians will have the right to invoke the Havana Act in support of their claim to self-government.

It is significant that the capitalist press in this country suppressed this fact from the British peo-

SAFEGUARDING NATIVE RIGHTS

The Nazis are not the only whites who believe in the doctrine of racial superiority. Hitler borrowed much of his hocus-pocus from such Americans as Lothrop Stoddard, Madison, Grant, Senators Heflin and Cole Blease and the Ku Klux Klan. Therefore, in order to avert racial conflicts between the Americans and natives, the West Indies National Council have called upon the British colonial governments in those territories where bases have been granted to America to institute the following measures to protect the rights and interests of West Indians:

1. In each of the colonies a local committee elected by the people should cooperate with the British authorities to supervise civil affairs in the leased areas.

2. Americans residing on the islands but outside the leased areas to be subject to local laws and customs.

3. Such Americans not to be allowed to carry firearms in the unleased territories. 4. Under no circumstances must the Americans

be invited by the local government to intervene in local labor and political disputes. 5. Local labor to be used on the bases, unless

of a technical nature not obtainable locally. 6. No color bar to be allowed on the bases similar to that existing in the Panama Canal Zone:

These proposals are very important, for already the dear cousins are squabbling over who shall control the natives in the leased areas. The Americans naturally want to introduce military rule, while the British officials, jealous of their prestige, are desirous of maintaining their dictatorship. Owing to the difficulty in reaching a settlement of this knotty question with the American board of naval and military experts (under the presidency of Rear Admiral J. W. Greenslade), the governor of Trinidad, Sir Hubert Young, has flown to Washington to confer with Secretary of State Hull.

Whatever the outcome, however, West Indians must realize that they have nothing to gain from agreements between imperialists. Only through their own tireless efforts and constant vigilance in defense of their rights will they achieve their aspiration of a United West Indian Socialist Republic, part and parcel of a World Socialist Fed-

nickel an hour for the fellows, or do we have to go back to our lead man? Which one do you supprto? 2. How about working conditions? Are you going to make a serious ef-

dawdle along? 3. When do we start the educational program? Most of the fellows want to know more about the American labor movement and the rôle of the working class in it. They want to learn how to speak and write effectively. They want a newspaper.

4. Are you going to draw more fellows into the union activity-place them on committees and give them responsible tasks to carry out or does the old clique monopolize all the

5. Let's get the union behind the social affairs, organize sports better and the like. The fellows want to get better acquainted socially. The UNION should run these

things. These are what the fellows are now waiting to see accomplished. Tom, any steps you and the rest of the newly elected fellows take to put these things into practice will be supported 100 per cent by the fellows. What do you say?

A Brewster Worker.

(Editorial Note: LABOR ACTION will gladly print any comment on this or other letters from Brewster

"Little Orphan Annie," the car-

toon strip, has gone off on one of