

WORKERS AGE



A Paper Defending the Interests of the Workers and Farmers

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Join the Communist Opposition!

If you are a Communist, if you are a revolutionary worker anxious to do your bit towards ridding mankind of the murderous capitalist system and replacing it by a new social order, then your place is in the ranks of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. (Opposition).

The startling contradiction today is that, while the economic and social breakdown of capitalism is slowly but surely preparing the conditions for the emergence of a mass Communist movement and for the winning of the workers to the cause of militancy and revolution, the official Communist Party, even taking into consideration all the inflated boasts of its leaders, is only a powerless sect, divorced from the masses, with far less effective influence among the workers than in the hard days of the Coolidge "prosperity." In spite of the years of crisis, in the face of a growing rebellious mood of the masses, no increase in membership but rather a continuous decline—the shrinkage of influence in the labor movement almost to nothing—so low a vote in the elections that it must have shocked even the most thoughtless! In a word, the Communist Party, from whom the workers had every right to expect leadership, has itself surrendered the opportunity and has completely failed to measure up to the historical tasks facing it.

Unite the Communist Movement!

The tragic failure of the official Communist Party to rise to its tasks is not peculiar to the United States alone. It is unfortunately true of the Communist movement in all countries of the world outside of the Soviet Union. And the basic causes are the same everywhere too; policies and tactics are being applied which are the very opposite of what the conditions demand and of what the teachings of Lenin and the experiences of the labor movement dictate. Owing to these utterly sectarian policies and tactics, the official Communist movement has almost everywhere converted itself into an impotent sect, has intensified confusion, multiplied division, discredited militancy and isolated the Communists from the masses of the workers.

In the United States the official Communist Party has lost all sense of American reality; it lives in a world of romantic, revolutionary-sounding phrases. It has deserted the mass labor organizations, segregated its members and sympathizers into special "Red" unions and similar bodies, and undermined and destroyed their influence among even the advanced workers. It has obstinately rejected the traditional Com-

munist tactics of the united front and has thus built up an almost insurmountable wall between itself and the non-Communist workers. It is unable to lift itself out of this desperate condition because of the suppression of all freedom within the party, because of the oppressive weight of the bureaucratic system that has grown up. Worst of all, the very ideas of Communism and militancy are being discredited among the workers by the suicidally irresponsible course of the official Communist Party.

It was in resistance to this suicidal sectarianism that the Communist Opposition arose in this country, as in the rest of the world, and it is to the restoration of the unity and fighting power of the Communist movement that it has dedicated its struggle from the very first. The Communist Party of the U. S. A. (Opposition), as part of the International Communist Opposition, strives to unite all Communist forces in this country in the fight for the rehabilitation of the Communist movement on the basis of effective Communist tactics, tactics formulated by Marx and Lenin and tested by years of class struggle. The Communist Opposition stands for a realistic examina-

tion of American conditions and the formulation of strategy and tactics on the basis of such an examination. We stand for Communist work in the concrete, we stand for union splitting and dual-unionism; we stand for the united front as the road to labor unity and to labor militancy. We stand for real party democracy and for a fundamental change in the system of the leadership in the Communist International, providing it with a real international collective leadership and guaranteeing the individual parties the initiative and self-dependence absolutely essential to their functioning as the vanguard of the proletariat.

A strong and politically effective Communist Party is a life-and-death necessity for the struggle of the workers for emancipation. The fight of the Communist Opposition is a fight to transform the Communist Party into a leading and inspiring force in the American labor movement today.

Members of the Communist Party! Revolutionary workers! Are you not ready to strike a blow in the fight to make our Communist Party into such a party?

Support the struggle of the Communist Opposition! Join the Communist Opposition!

CONFIRM GAINS IN U. S. S. R.

To Consolidate Advances Of 5-Year Plan

Moscow, U.S.S.R.

With the completion of the Five-Year Plan in a little over four years, the Soviet government has decided that the year 1933 should be devoted to strengthening and consolidating the economic advances of the last four years and to preparing for the second Five-Year Plan, the main outlines of which were laid down in the Spring of this year. The plans for the year 1933 provide for a decided shift to light industry and to the production of articles of mass consumption in order to bring about a rapid improvement in the living conditions of the masses. In this way it is expected to compensate for the sacrifices the Soviet workers and farmers have had to make this year to overcome the effects of the world economic crisis, the Far Eastern war danger, the drought, and the other factors that have operated as obstacles in the completion of the Five-Year Plan.

The proposed concentration on light industry in 1933 is made possible by the fact that a basis of heavy industry has already been created thru the Five-Year Plan. In spite of the fact that grain collections from State farms are not yet complete, they are already 10% higher than last year. It is expected that the increase will be at least 25%.

The decision to devote the year 1933 to the consolidation and expansion of light industry has been utilized by enemies of the Soviet Union to spread the idea that the first Five-Year Plan was a "failure" and that the second Five-

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Whose Depression Is It?

Whose depression is it? Who are the real sufferers from the consequences of the present crisis? The capitalist papers and the other paid apologists of capitalism tell us heart-rending stories of the awful plight of the "poor" rich men, "ruined" on Wall Street, and millions of thoughtless working people really believe the shameless fraud: "We have all suffered."

What are the facts? In a recent article in "The World Tomorrow", Professor Paul H. Douglas presents these facts in an astounding effective manner. Their lesson is unmistakable.

The total amount paid out in wages to American workers in manufacturing industries since 1926, taking 1926 as a standard (100), is represented in the following table:

1926	100.
1927	97.
1928	95.
1929	100.
1930	80.
1931	60.
1932	38.

Taking into consideration the fall in the cost of living since 1926, we see that *real wages* (wages in terms of what they can buy) of workers in manufacturing industries were a little less than half (49%) in 1932 of what they were in 1926.

And now what about the coupon-clippers, the class of rich capitalists who live on dividends, for whom we are asked to weep? Again taking 1926 as a standard (100), the following figures show the course of *total dividend and interest payments* in the years un-

der consideration:	
1926	100.
1927	129.
1928	137.
1929	173.
1930	196.
1931	187.
1932	160.

If we take into consideration the higher purchasing power of the dollar today, it is clear that *dividend and interest receivers* got more real income in 1932, the year of deep crisis, than they got in 1929, the great boom year! While, of course, the workers had their income cut to less than half!

These figures speak volumes. They throw a devastating light upon the workings of the capitalistic system which utilizes even crises to make the rich richer and the poor, poorer!

Whose depression is it?

FAKE 'FREEDOM' FOR FILIPINOS

Congress Passes Bill to Strangle Isles

Washington, D. C.

By a division vote of 171 to 16, the House of Representatives voted, on December 29, to approve the conference report on a bill for "independence" of the Philippines that had been ratified by the Senate without a record vote the week before.

The bill now awaits the signature of President Hoover. It is expected that Hoover will veto the measure.

The so-called "independence" bill, now finally adopted by both houses of Congress, is one of the most tortuously deceptive and fraudulent measures ever framed. It aims exclusively to destroy the Philippine competition with certain American agricultural interests, especially sugar, coconut oil, cordage and fibers. It provides for a long "probationary period", nominally ten years but actually much longer, during which United States sovereignty will be maintained. Even after all the complicated requirements are fulfilled and "independence" granted, the United States would still retain military posts and reservations upon the islands! But, as soon as the "probationary period" begins and long before even the alleged "independence" is in effect, the free entry of Philippine imports into the United States is to be stopped and regular tariff rates are to be imposed on the most important products of the islands. Filipino immigration to the United States is to be practically barred.

The Philippine "independence" bill, now approved by Congress, has aroused great resentment and

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JOIN!

JOIN the Communist Party of the U. S. A. (Opposition) and do your bit towards uniting the Communist movement on the basis of effective, realistic Leninist tactics!

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BRIDGMAN CASE IS REVIVED

To Try Red Leaders After Ten Years

LANSING, Mich.—The ten year old criminal syndicalism case against William Z. Foster, Jay Lovestone, Alex Bail, Max Bedacht and other Communist leaders is to be revived, according to the decision of the State Supreme Court on January 3 upholding the ruling of the Berrien County court which refused to dismiss the case.

The Communist leaders are held for participation in the 1922 Bridgman case, which was then an illegal party, which was then an illegal organization. Foster and Ruthenberg were tried in 1923; Ruthenberg was convicted and Foster was released because the jury disagreed. Subsequently, Ruthenberg died.

After having allowed the case to drop for ten years, the authorities are now trying to revive it in order to utilize it as a basis of attack upon radical labor.

ALBANY, N. Y.—Within the past few weeks M. Harris, International organizer of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has suspended three active workers from Local No. 11 in a desperate effort to smash the progressive forces in the Capital District.

The suspended workers are John Chickering, removed from the Executive Board and suspended for one year; Arthur Oliver, suspended for six months; and R. Carmichael, suspended for three months.

The progressive group in this local succeeded only a short time ago in removing the business agent who had been installed by the International office, and is at present leading the struggle against the increased dues rates and for the reestablishment of the three locals in Albany, Schenectady and Troy. The union bureaucrats merged these three locals into Local 11, decreasing the vitality of the union forces and robbing the membership of local control, with the result that in the past year 125 members have been lost.

What Price Philippines?

An Answer To The "Liberal" Apologists Of Imperialism — Charging Against The Filipino People The Expenses Of Enslaving And Oppressing Them — What The Islands Mean To U. S. Imperialism

by I. Zimmerman

It is unnecessary to tell any one who does any thinking that when it took hold of the Philippines, the United States was not moved by unselfish philanthropy or by a brotherly desire to "protect" the poor Filipinos. But it is, at this moment, necessary to call attention to the avalanche of hypocritical nonsense filling the columns of the capitalist press in connection with the bills before Congress supposedly granting "independence" to the Philippine Islands.

A Campaign Of Misinformation

An article in a recent issue of the "World-Telegram" by William Philip Simms, foreign editor of the "liberal" Scripps-Howard newspapers, is a good example of this

campaign of misrepresentation, misinformation and confusion. Under the heading: "The Philippines have cost the U. S. a billion in cash and 5,000 lives," Mr. Simms presents us with this gem in his opening paragraph: "If Congress makes the Filipinos a Christmas present of their independence, it will be the most expensive Christmas present in history." In the itemized expense account which he proceeds to make, Mr. Simms generously refrains from charging the Filipinos with the cost of sending Dewey's fleet to the Far East or the cost of the Battle of Manila Bay. But the list of what he deems chargeable to the Philip-

ippines is interesting enough. Let us take up some of his points in order:

1. "General Aguinaldo," runs the article, "who had set up a Philippine Republic, started an insurrection . . . It took years and 120,000 American troops to put down this insurrection, at a cost of \$175,000,000 and 4,165 American officers and men. . ."

Thus the claim; and now the facts. Aguinaldo led a rebellion of the Filipinos against the Spanish in 1896. The movement resulted in the Treaty of Briac-na-bat-o, under which the Filipino people were assured of certain reforms and the leaders of the rebellion were "induced" to leave the islands for the sum of \$1,000,000. I am (Continued on Page 7)

MORE WAGE-CUT FOR WORKERS

Railroad, Printing And Subway Workers Hit

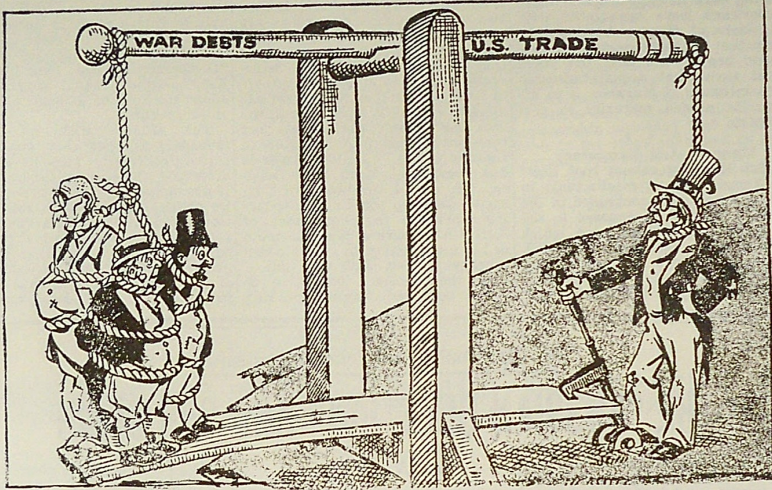
A wage-cut reducing from 10% to 30% for all employees except those receiving less than \$22 a week was announced on December 27 by the receivers for the Interborough Rapid Transit Company in New York City. The company union of the Interborough employees, the Brotherhood of Interborough Employees, had given its "consent" to the cut, of course without asking the workers themselves.

By a vote of 4,513 to 1,086, representing the returns of 282 out of 350 chapels, the union printers of New York City employed in book and job shops, organized in Typographical Union No. 6, accepted a cut of 8%, bringing down day-shift wages to \$50 and night-shift wages to \$56 for a five-day week. The 8% cut is a compromise with the employers who demanded a much higher wage slash.

The extension of the 10% "temporary" wage reduction for another nine months was accepted by the representatives of the standard railroad unions, in session in Chicago, as the basis for the new contract signed with the companies. At the same time, the railroad companies have announced that in June 1933 they will petition under the railway labor act to effect a permanent lowering of the basic wage rates of the railroad workers.

New York City.

A very effective parade and demonstration with over 1,000 participants, protesting against the anti-Jewish pogroms in Poland took place here before the Polish Consulate on December 23. The movement was organized by a united front of student and youth organizations including the National Student League, the Young Paole Zion Alliance, Menorah groups, and Social Problems Clubs of various New York universities, etc.



The entanglement of imperialist antagonisms is a veritable halter around the necks of the great imperialist powers.—LENIN.

Slavery in Mississippi

The Truth About The "Land Of The Free"

The existence of conditions, compared with which, according to the A. F. of L. report ("American Federationist", March 1932), "slavery in its most trying days" was "mild", has been exposed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in its investigation of the virtual peonage under which Negro laborers suffer on the Federal Mississippi flood-control projects. From the circular issued by the N. A. A. C. P., we quote:

"The slavery of 1932, like that before the Civil War, is rooted in the exploitation of black men's labor, the mistreatment of their bodies, and the denial to them of the primary decencies that civilization owes all human beings. It is practised on work undertaken, controlled and financed by the United States Government, the Mississippi Flood Control project, intended to curb the devastating floods of the Mississippi River over the adjacent land of the Delta states.

"Two investigations independently undertaken have reported and established the facts beyond any reasonable doubt. One of these investigations was by representatives of the American Federation of Labor. The other was made for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, during the summer of 1932, by Miss Helen Boardman, a college graduate, former Red Cross relief worker who had been in charge of relief work in former Mississippi flood disasters.

Incredible Conditions

"What are the conditions which these two independent investigations have established?"

"The Federal government has accepted bids of private contractors for the levee work to be done. Those private contractors, supposedly under government supervision in the conduct of their work have been found guilty of the following misdeeds:

"1. **Overtime:** Negroes on levee work in the private camps have been worked seven days a week for as much as 12 and in many cases 14 and 16 hours a day, and have been worked at night in addition to overlong daytime hours without one cent of overtime pay.

"2. **Underpayment:** The rate of pay has been as low as ten cents an hour and even less and in a multitude of authentic cases the men have been summarily discharged without pay; have received only a fraction of the pay stipulated; and almost universally have been systematically robbed by charges for ice water, cook's charges, and forced purchases at company stores and commissaries where the prices are extortionate. The almost invariable result is that they have received little or nothing for their work. Examples of company store extortions are as follows: 12-lb sack of flour 60 cents, regular price 30 cents; salt pork 15 cents, regular price 6 cents; cotton pants \$2, regular price 98 cents; condensed milk 20 cents, regular price 8 cents.

"3. **Beatings:** Men and women as well have been subject to brutal beatings by overseers. Levee workers are so terror-stricken that they would never even tell of the levee

camp horrors unless promised that their names would be withheld.

"4. **Unsanitary Conditions:** Crowded, floorless tents, filthy quarters, no garbage disposal, no screens in mosquito and malaria infested country.

"The War Department denied the charges made by the A. F. of L. and disputed the facts presented by the N. A. A. C. P. Upon the Association's insistence that the facts be heard the War Department appointed a hearing in Washington for the N. A. A. C. P. investigator from which the press was excluded. At this hearing questions were asked indicating that the War Department representative was willing to adopt for the Department's standard the slave working conditions prevalent in that section.

"A War Department whitewash of the charges was clearly indicated. A committee appointed just

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WORKERS AGE
228 Second Avenue
New York City

Against the Sweatshop Evil!

Conference Is Formed In Connecticut

Hartford, Conn.

The terrible sweatshop conditions in the state of Connecticut are only too notorious. Cases are not uncommon of girls working a full week for less than \$2.00 under the most unbearable conditions. In fact, things have become so bad that they have aroused the protest not only of the radical elements in the labor movement but also of such social and civic organizations as the Consumers League of Connecticut, the Y.W.C.A., the League of Woman Voters, etc. Protest meetings against the sweatshop evil were called by various groups but no real effort made to unite the various organizations in a common struggle against the terrible conditions in the fly-by-night factories until recently.

On Wednesday evening, December 14, a provisional conference to frame plans for fighting sweatshop evil was held at the Hartford Y.W.C.A. Twenty delegates were present at this preliminary conference, representatives of the Socialist party, of the Communist Opposition, of the Y.P.S.L., of the Y.W.C.A., of the Hartford Association of the Unemployed, of the National Religion and Labor Foundation and other organizations. Kenneth Epstein and Jeanette Studley were elected chairman and secretary respectively.

All were agreed upon the necessity of eradicating the sweatshop pest. There was a lively discussion as to the best methods in this

struggle. Means discussed included unionization and legislative action. Plans were broached for enlarging the basis of the conference.

The Manufacturers Association of Connecticut had the audacity to send a representative to be an observer at the conference. This gentleman had the impertinence to assert that the association would be willing to "help" the anti-sweatshop drive! These manufacturers, who resist unionization and progressive labor legislation, posing as the enemies of the sweatshop! But nobody took them seriously!

At the end of the conference a motion was made and accepted that a continuation committee, consisting of representatives of various labor unions, social and civic organizations, be chosen, with the main purpose of preparing and arranging for a statewide conference.

In order to fight the sweatshop evil, we must ask ourselves: *Why the rush of small fly-by-night shops from New York to Connecticut?* Let us see what Mr. Tone, Connecticut Commissioner of Labor and Factory Inspection, has to say about it: "The condition in this state has resulted from the rush of such 'depression profiteers' here after being forced out of New York State and has also resulted from the fact that the Connecticut working class is not as well trained as that of New York to battle against such injustices for the victims of the sweatshops in Connecticut do not belong to organized labor bodies as the New York working men do." The lesson is clear: *The unionization and the organization of the workers is the best way of fighting the sweatshop evil!*

—G. P.

J. P. Cannon

On Jan. 8, 228 - 2nd Ave.
Program of Left Opposition

