

A Glance Backward

Our social and cultural activities sponsored thruout the past year kept popping at the usual steady tempo, a glance through the past records reveals.

By "our" we mean, of course, Branch 1 and its sub-divisions—"Sava", Falcons and the Social Study Club.

Following closely upon the ending of 1937 with our annual new year's eve party came the 35th Anniversary celebration on February 20 with an appropriate program consisting of varied entertainment and featuring the play "Jernejček."

Next came "Sava's" Spring Concert combined with the Loyalist aid program on April 10th. A variety program including the play "The Terrible Meek" was presented.

Not to be forgotten was the "Hard Time Party" put across with a "bang" by the Social Study Club on March 12th. It can be said without fear of dispute that all who attended had a swell time.

This was followed by the Falcon's party at the Center on March 27th.

On April 24, Savans made a trip to La Salle where they participated in the annual song festival held by Slovene singing groups from Illinois and Wisconsin.

The second anniversary of the Slovene Labor Center's establishment was fittingly observed on May 14th.

On June 19, "Sava" held its annual outing at Kobals in Clarendon Hills. "What is so rare as a day in June?" a famous poet once asked. To which the proper answer might be: a June day spent rambling through the fresh fields or along a cool stream. Reports were that everyone enjoyed the day.

The third in succession of a series of rained-out social affairs was the Social Study Club's corn-roast planned for the Forest Preserves on the night of September 9, but fulfilled finally at the Center.

On September 11th we again find Savans picnicking in Willow Springs. Dancing, games and rollicking through the cool woods was anticipated. The date came but so did the rain. A party, mostly indoors, was enjoyed instead.

A Halloween party was the next affair on the list. This, at the Center on October 29, sponsored by our Branch.

"Sava's" Concert was given on November 29, at the SNPJ Hall to a large audience. It was pronounced a moral and financial success.

We concluded the year with our new year's eve party at the SNPJ Hall.

An enormous amount of work, advertising and agitation was required to fulfill this calendar of events properly and with some measure of success, but without any attempt at bragging, it can be truthfully said that our Branch proved itself equal to the occasion every time.

EARNINGS OF WOMEN WORKERS IN PENNSYLVANIA HOTELS

One-half of the women employed on full-time basis in year-round hotels in Pennsylvania received cash earnings of less than 28 cents an hour, \$11.44 per week, and \$550 per year, according to a survey of employment and earnings of women and minors in lodging establishments conducted by the Bureau of Hours and Minimum Wages of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

The telephone operators and housekeepers regularly earned \$15 or more per week. Nearly one-half of the women and minors employed in year-round hotels did not receive any remuneration other than cash wages. About 18 percent reported small tips in addition to their wage, and about 33 percent received either meals or lodging or both. Of this latter group, 13.5 percent received one meal per day, nearly 10 percent received more than one meal per day, and about an equal number received full maintenance, that is, meals and lodging. Some employees, particularly in the larger cities, must purchase and launder their own uniforms. In a number of instances the employers pay for either the uniform or the cost of laundering, the survey revealed.

LITTLE ESSAYS IN SOCIALISM

By John M. Work

Just as there cannot be human brotherhood so long as the profit system exists, so also there cannot be human brotherhood so long as race prejudice exists.

It is true that economic barriers cause much of the race prejudice, but it is also true that much of it is caused by false impressions received in childhood. If a child is given the impression, by his elders, that certain kinds of people are inferior, or that they are to be shunned, he carries that impression into adulthood as a set, unreasoning prejudice.

In Nazi and Fascist countries race prejudice is created by wicked and deliberate propaganda. To some extent this is also true in our own country.

Like all other prejudices, race prejudice is hard to eradicate. It can only be done by patient and persistent effort.

Any person who comes to realize that he harbors race prejudice should try to rid himself of it.

And he should aid in ridding others of it, by precept and example. He should quietly take the side of abused races when the question arises. He should set a good example by treating victims of taboo as equals; also by refraining from the inconsiderate use of such expressions as "nigger," "wop," "dago," "sheeny," etc., as these offensive expressions increase

race prejudice, whereas expressions which imply respect have a tendency to wear down prejudice in others.

In a state of human brotherhood all men will look upon one another as brothers, and no one will look down upon anyone else. Race prejudice is the negation of human brotherhood. It is a base emotion. It is something to be ashamed of.

Men afflicted with race prejudice consider themselves superior, but they are utterly mistaken. It would be impossible for a genuinely superior person to entertain race prejudice. The mere fact of entertaining race prejudice proves one to be inferior.

Leni Reifentahl, Hitler's girl friend who got snubbed from New York to Hollywood, says that her films of the 1936 Olympics won't be shown in the U. S.

We'll just have to get along without 'em as well as we can.

National progress is the sum of individual industry, energy, and uprightness, as national decay is of individual idleness, selfishness, and vice.

Contemporaries appreciate the man rather than the merit; but posterity will regard the merit rather than the man. — Colton.

Of all the cants in this canting world, though the cant of hypocrites may be the worst, the cant of criticism is the most tormenting. — Sterns.

SPAIN AT THE CROSSROADS

Cleveland, O. — Events in Spain seem to be coming to a conclusion. The recognition of Franco by England and France has just about sealed the fate of the legally elected Loyalist government. However, that does not mean that we should forget about Spain and what happened there. The conclusion of the war will bring about the usual results as in previous wars. From war-torn Spain come refugees, poor people who have so little to do and say about events, and it must become our duty to aid as much and in every way possible the outcasts of today and tomorrow.

In order to do our part, we in Cleveland are holding a mass meeting Thursday, March 2, at which Joško Oven of Chicago will be the guest speaker. The meeting is planned for Hall 1, S.N.D., at 8 P. M.

Admission will be free and everyone should make it his business to attend.

Joško Oven is a good and well known speaker who is appreciated where ever he speaks. Having traveled extensively, comrade Oven's lecture should prove really interesting.

Don't forget, Thursday, March 2, at 8 P. M.

Let's all do our part to help the people who have so bravely given their all in the fight for democracy against overwhelming odds.

Publicity Committee.

"SUCCESS" FABLE

Two bugs were carried by the wind from their birthplace. They were also separated. One of them landed on a manure pile and the other on a hard pavement. The former soon grew fat and comfortable, and like many fat and comfortable people he developed a desire to travel. So one day he left the manure pile and wandered afield. After a while he came to the hard pavement and there he met his long-lost brother, who was very thin and gaunt.

"How you are getting on?" inquired the fat one.

"Very poorly," replied the thin one. "I work from early morning until late at night and can scarcely keep body and soul together. "But," he continued, "you look prosperous."

"Oh, yes indeed," replied the other. "I am doing very well."

"To what do you attribute your success?" inquired the thin one.

And the fat one swelled up importantly and said, "Brains."

JSF JUNIOR GUILD NOTES

Hello Everybody!

We have just awakened to the fact that the Junior Guild members haven't written an article for Proletarec all winter.

I am writing to let all our friends know of our activities. We are on the "lookout" for new members always. We have a very nice club and in the near future are going to sponsor a "domaća zabava". Both girls and boys are welcome to join us. Our meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Slovene Labor Center at 7:30 P. M.

This is just a reminder to the girls' chorus. Remember that we have practice every Friday evening at the Center. We are practicing some very nice songs but we can't have a good chorus if we don't have enough members. So please girls do not forget rehearsal on Friday nights.

One more item that you must not forget—our monthly meeting, Friday, March 3rd. Bring a new member along.

So long, until we meet again.

Frances Saits.

British Capitalists Are In the Fight For Own Interests Not Franco's

By SCOTT NEARING

British businessmen had more money invested in Spain than any other capitalist group. From the spring of 1931 when King Alfonso XIII packed up his securities and moved from Madrid to London, the British ruling class has played a leading role in determining the course of the Spanish revolution.

British policy called for a weak Spain as the surest means of safeguarding Gibraltar. Division and civil war are the most effective measures for sapping national strength. The bitter class struggles from 1931 to 1936 laid the basis for antagonisms and hatreds in the civil war that broke out in July, 1936.

The British ruling class had another interest in the Spanish revolution—it stood for law, order and the preservation of capitalism, and against any mass movement that threatened capitalist institutions. The People's Fronts in France and Spain had mustered immense popular support in 1935 and 1936. Both countries were uncomfortably close to the British Isles. This was reason enough in itself to lead the British to take a hand in Spanish affairs.

The Spanish government elected in February, 1936, was a popular one. Such a government could appeal to the Spanish masses against the rebel generals and their plutocratic supporters and organize an army that within a reasonable time could put down the rebellion. Since Spain had no large scale munitions industry, the government must depend for supplies upon imports. Here was the key to the situation: the Spanish government must be blockaded!

We outsiders do not know how much advance notice the British Tory government had on the Spanish rebellion. The plans were laid in Rome and Berlin beginning in March, 1936. Was London advised at that time, or only later? Be that as it may, the British foreign office had the non-intervention proposal all ready when the rebellion broke out in July. Its first act was to deprive the Spanish government of the possibility of getting military supplies.

Italian and German supplies were already going to the rebels. The Italian planes forced down in French Morocco furnished public proof of this, if proof were needed. Portugal, a British vassal state, was the open door for the streams of man-power and munitions that were flowing into rebel territory. The policy of non-intervention was designed to cripple the Madrid government and put the rebels in a position to fight a real civil war.

The war has continued for two and a half years. Spanish wealth and man-power have been devoured and the Spanish people bled white. The first objective has been achieved. Spain has been weakened.

But Germany and Italy have gained a foothold in Spain. Whatever arrangement Chamberlain may have with Franco (the Italian control of the Balearic Islands and the German domination of Spanish iron ore have reached dangerous proportions.

The time has therefore come for a rebel victory.

A rebel victory means, for France, fascist nations on three frontiers. In 1914 France was unable to handle Germany alone. Today she has not a beggar's chance with Germany, Italy and Spain unless Britain supports her. When Chamberlain visited Rome in January, did he assure Mussolini that he might press forward to the defeat of loyalist Spain, with the assurance that France was hogtied by London? This was the situation in the Czech crisis. It may well be true again today.

In March 1938, Austria; in September, Czecho-Slovakia; in January 1939, Spain, who will be next? Is Viscount Runciman preparing to visit Warsaw or Amsterdam? Perhaps Hitler already knows the answer.

SCHEDULE OF JOŠKO OVEN'S TOUR

The success of comrade Oven's speaking tour in behalf of the Loyalist refugees depends upon the support our comrades and friends will give it by attending and also upon the extend to which they will urge as many of their friends as possible to attend.

Comrade Oven is an interesting speaker, well versed on the Spanish civil war which he will discuss in his lectures.

The schedule of dates and cities is as follows:

Cleveland, March 2nd in the Slovene National Home on St. Clair Avenue.

COLLINWOOD, March 3rd in the Slovene Workers' Home on Waterloo Road.

STRABANE, PA., March 5th in SNPJ lodge 138 Hall.

Arrangements for the lectures are being made by the JSF Educational Bureau. In Chicago Branch 1 is busy preparing for its March 11th affair, half the proceeds of which will be donated for the Loyalist cause.

A Few Men Control America's Press

Secretary of the Interior Harold I. Ickes is on the newspaper publishers' "blacklist." He committed the unpardonable crime of suggesting that the American press is not "free"; that it distorts news and truckles to interests which have fat purses. In substance, that is what he said in a debate on the air with Frank E. Gannett, bitter foe of the "New Deal" and owner of a "string" of dailies.

The American press is "free" in the sense that our government makes no attempt to impose a censorship. Of course, that is as it should be. In Italy, Germany, Japan and many other countries the government indicates what an editor may or may not say. That's very bad.

In this country a handful of rich men, most of them without social vision, and many of them without personal integrity, tell the editor what he may or may not say. That, also, is very bad. Not as bad as government censorship, but, nevertheless, a serious threat to the safety of our cherished democratic institutions.

LABOR believes it's extremely conservative when it says that 20 newspaper publishers—men like Hearst, McCormick of the Chicago "Tribune," Gannett and Roy Howard of the Scripps-Howard papers—control more than half the circulation of American newspapers. They are also influential in dictating the editorial policies of the news-gathering organizations which serve practically all American papers.

These men, and other like them, are constantly tightening their grip on the American press and, as LABOR has frequently pointed out, they are also reaching out to control radio. If they succeed they will be in a position to shackle Truth and feed the American people any kind of propaganda they see fit.

That's the important fact the American people should have in mind when Mr. Gannett, or some other reactionary newspaper publisher, clamors for "freedom of the press." Their idea of a free press is one they control. They don't object to censorship, so long as they are the censors.

—Labor.

There's at least one umbrella that Prime Minister Chamberlain won't carry.

It came to his door in a coffin, brought by the unemployed.

Preview of "Venus"

Do you still remember to look at the high heavens, even though your sky may be shadowed and darkened with the countless tragedies of life, to see if you can find the bright star that looks so full of promise and hope, and makes you feel a little better because of the beauty of the stars and boundless space?

At this time we have even a better antidote for your worries; a three-act comedy delightfully based on the symbol of womanly beauty—"Venus, de Milo," to be presented by Detroit players at the SNPJ Hall, Saturday, March 11th under sponsorship of Branch 1, JSF.

The comedy unfolds in a little Slovene village, a beautiful vacation land, where lives a sturdy, peasant family, consisting of the head of the family, Tomaz (F. Cesen), his wife Polona (M. Rant), their ambitious daughter Ivanka (M. Chesnik) and their foolish house-maid Ursa (J. Urbancic). To this village comes an artist to spend his vacation, who fills Ivanka with words of flattery, telling her that her beauty equals that of Venus and that he would like, at his first opportunity, to have her pose for him, as such, so that he could paint her beauty. Naive little Ivanka is overwhelmed with enthusiasm over this proposal and her father readily falls in accord with the idea. But, not her mother, Polona, the true wearer of the family trousers, who vigorously opposes such a thing. This, perhaps, would not have culminated, had not the devil brought the "City Slicker" Ciligoj, into their midst. This old love-lorn gent who has his heart set on Ivanka, readily sees the artist as a rival and slyly invokes further action around the Venus idea.

Ciligoj, thus arranges that Ivanka portrays Venus at the 300 Anniversary celebration of the village and appears as Venus — sans attire — to ride at the honored head of the parade. Her mother Polona is induced to give her consent by Ciligoj, whose money has great influence over her. Meanwhile, a fine looking young man, Joze (P. Verderbar) is hired by the Ticek family, who falls for Ivanka at first sight. She too, finds Joze to her liking. Joze tries to dissuade Ivanka from the idea of masquerading as Venus, but she is set upon the idea and will not heed his pleas.

The day of the celebration arrives and — oh! joy! — the crowd rallies against the Venus presentation and shames poor Ivanka, not allowing "nude women running around the town." Ciligoj, the instigator of this "fiasco," is soundly beaten by the village boys. Ivanka, disgraced and wretched at the outcome of her Venus, accepts the proposal of marriage from Ciligoj, and comforts herself that now she will be able to ride about in an automobile as a rich lady.

Upon this sorry state of affairs appears the mother of Joze, Angela Ciligoj (K. Kirn), widow of another Ciligoj. This similarity of names gives the people the idea that she is the wife of their Ciligoj. This presents all kind of complications and quarrels. To top all this, it comes to light that Joze is the son of their Ciligoj, the fruit of a war-time love affair. This, of course, breaks the engagement between Ciligoj and Ivanka, and Joze finally wins Ivanka. The old love is rekindled and old Ciligoj marries Angela, mother of Joze and the comedy ends as it should end — they lived happily ever after.

Don't fail to attend—you're sure to like it.

Aristocratic Democracy

"The best government is aristocratic," the philosopher Aristotle said a couple of thousand years ago. Thomas Jefferson, a great American democrat, said the same thing. But neither Aristotle nor Jefferson meant that the best government should be in the hands of those whom we commonly call "aristocrats" today.

The word aristocratic is derived from the Greek word "aristos" which means "the best." The word democracy is derived from the Greek word "demos," meaning "the people."

Most of us will agree that government should be in the hands of the "best people," a combination of aristocracy and democracy. This means that best government is that which is controlled by an aristocracy drawn from all classes, who are given leadership because of their character, their virtue, their ability to govern.

This shuts out the mob which possesses none of these requirements. It shuts out the gangs which have secured control in many of our cities. It shuts out the politicians who stoop to low-down tricks or selfish practices. It shuts out those who merely possess wealth. It shuts out those who have acquired economic power but who use it to exploit the workers. It shuts out so-called "labor leaders" who are dominated by the class spirit.

In the last analysis, the government should be in the hands of an aristocracy, composed of all classes, regardless of race, creed, color, or economic condition. These are the people who should constitute the rulers in a democracy which is truly aristocratic.

This would be an aristocracy of brains, of virtue, or character. These qualities are just as prevalent among the workers of America as they are among the wealthy, the social leaders, the industrialists, those who now sit in the seats of those whom we regard as the "mighty."

Our country is safe because our Constitution is based upon the principles just described. There can be no better form of government. The real aristocrat will defend this government against every attack that is made upon it. If the time should ever come when our form of government should fail, it will be only because we have lost our character, our virtue, our courage to maintain it.

No outside force can take these from us. It will be only as we become flabby, or indifferent, or cowardly that this may happen. In other words, only as we lose our "aristocratic" spirit. This is the spirit which dominates the "common" people of America. And because they outnumber all others, we may rest assured that our democracy is safe.

—Charles Stealzle in The Bakers' Journal

SAFETY SLANTS

Time-honored Aesop, who never dreamed of the automobile, spoke great wisdom with fables. One, the story of the shepherd-boy who used to amuse himself by crying out "Wolf! Wolf!" should be read and weighed carefully by every motorist who is in the habit of crying "Wolf!" with his horn. According to Aesop, twice the trick succeeded and the alarmed villagers, rushing to the rescue, were greeted only by the boy's laugh. The third time the wolf really came but the villagers, thinking it a jest, failed to answer. The sheep were devoured.

Moral: Don't cry "Wolf!" with your horn; there may come a time when it will save your life.

SELECTED AS THE "GREATEST BOOKS OF ALL TIME"

In a radio broadcast from New York on January 25, Louis Adamic and Burton Roscoe selected the following as the "Greatest Books of All Time"—

One Volume of Shakespeare, Montaigne's Essays, Odyssey, Bible, Tolstoy's War and Peace, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Boswell's Private Papers, The Life of Johnson, Don Quixote, and Huckleberry Finn.

What do you think of the selection? Personally, I feel there are many others I would rather read.

J. D.

Men's arguments often prove nothing but their wishes.

SACRIFICED TO KEEP FASCISM OUT OF SPAIN

