

Labor in North Africa

In a sense, French North Africa can be considered the first territory to be liberated from the Nazi yoke.

The landing of British and American troops, last November, freed these areas from German domination.

Many problems have already arisen in French North Africa, and some of them have attracted much attention and been much discussed.

The labor movement needs democracy. True. But democracy also needs the labor movement.

It is logical, therefore, that the reconstruction of independent labor movement should be one of the first steps in re-establishing democracy.

So far it has been impossible to obtain any reliable information about the present state of French labor organizations in North Africa.

In 1937, at the high of the development of the French labor movement, the Algerian unions had a membership of 118,000.

The Vichy government destroyed the independence of the French labor movement. The unions ceased to represent French labor effectively.

The thing to remember is that Algeria is not a colony but an integral part of France. Its unions are therefore an integral part of the French labor movement as a whole.

"Pathetic" Lunch Boxes Made Her Ashamed

"When I looked into these pathetic lunch boxes, I was ashamed," Agnes Meyer, wife of the very rich publisher of the Washington "Post," was at the entrance to a bituminous coal mine near Uniontown, Pa.

"Tell those folks in Washington to give us enough to eat, at the right prices, and we'll go along," said one miner.

And then they showed Mrs. Meyers their lunch boxes, and she was ashamed! Ashamed that in this country, where we are talking about feeding the world, we can't give essential war workers enough to eat.

Mrs. Meyers heard the same complaint in other war production centers. She believes we have plenty of food, but that there is "lack of intelligence" in its distribution.

What is the government doing about it? Nothing much.

The most hopeful move so far made by O. P. A. is the announcement that it will fix prices and count on the American housewife to be "her own policeman."

SANS Appeals to Winston Churchill

On May 16 Etbin Kristan, president of SANS, submitted the following letter to Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Britain:

The Right Honorable Winston Churchill, The White House, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Churchill:

As president of the Slovenian American National Council, the undersigned feels it is his duty to do what he can to help achieve justice for a nation which is on the verge of being exterminated while fighting a most desperate battle both for its own survival and for world democracy.

The Slovenian American National Council which was duly elected by the Slovenian National Congress December 5 and 6, 1942, at Cleveland, Ohio is the only mouthpiece that can freely speak for the Slovenes who with the fall of Yugoslavia became the victims of German nazism and Italian fascism.

Now the Slovenes are facing the blackest hour in their history. You know how ruthlessly the forces of

evil, Italian no less than German, are at work in order to put this small nation out of existence. The properties comprising whole provinces have been confiscated, the population forcibly deported, children taken from their parents, peasants and workers enslaved in German and Italian factories, mines and fields.

You also know that in spite of all this the Slovenes are still fighting both secretly and openly in their homeland and in the ranks of the United Nations.

But there is no earthly reason why the Slovenes should be sacrificed this time. The United Nations with whom the Slovenes are fighting do not owe Italy anything.

The Slovenes are regarded as one of the most cultured European peoples. Illiteracy among them is practi-

THE MARCH OF LABOR



John L. Bids for Power

John L. Lewis has stirred labor to the depths by asking the A. F. of L. to readmit the United Mine Workers to membership.

In this movement four purposes may be seen: 1. Lewis wants the added strength that will come to him in the mine wage controversy if he can get rid of the "lone wolf" label and win A. F. of L. support.

2. Lewis hopes to gain control of the A. F. of L. and dominate American labor.

3. Lewis hopes to join with those A. F. of L. leaders who are hostile to the C. I. O. and break up the unity movement between the two big labor organizations.

4. Lewis and Hutcheson, conservative Republicans in politics, hope to turn the A. F. of L. against the Democratic party in the 1944 election.

The return of Lewis might split the A. F. of L. in two. The powerful machinists' union, which has been moving toward industrial unionism as a result of organizing the aircraft industry, is holding a referendum now on withdrawal from the federation.

Finally, the rank and file of federation members are far more progressive politically than leaders like Hutcheson, Woll and Lewis.

Certainly, the members of the A. F. of L. should act with their eyes open. Success for the Lewis-Hutcheson political movement would insure the election of a national administration hostile to union labor.

"F. D." APOLOGIZES FOR BOND SALESMEN

The other day President Roosevelt apologized to President Enrique Penaranda of Bolivia, who came to Washington as the guest of our government.

In the days prior to the stock market crash of 1929, Americans banks and bond houses sent their representatives racing over Latin America, urging the various governments to float loans.

Practically all the loans are in default. Americans, who purchased the paper, have lost 75 per cent of their investments, which totaled hundreds of millions.

Bolivia was one of the victims, and President Penaranda assured "F. D." that his people has not forgotten. The peoples of other Latin-American countries also have good memories.

A prominent man was asked to give his definition of an expert. His answer was succinct: "An expert is one who can complicate simplicity."

BLACK MARKET IMPERILS THE NATION'S WAR EFFORTS

Admission that racketeers have "horned in" on the nation's food supply to an extent that threatens the war effort came from the Department of Agriculture, the Office of Price Administration, the Office of Program Coordination and the Office of War Information.

The black market has become "Big Business," a report jointly issued by these agencies said. All phases of the racket are described in such detail as to indicate that the government is familiar with the evil, even if little has been done to eradicate it.

"The results have been easy, though alarming, to see," the report declared. "Prices have skyrocketed, and many cities have reported serious meat shortages for which racketeers are to blame."

"Our civilian workers on the home front are being chiseled out of their fair share of the meat supplies. Honest packers and meat dealers are losing their trade to the racketeers."

"Over and above the actual meat which has been lost, great quantities of strategic by-products are gone forever."

"Potential surgical sutures, adrenalin, gelatin for military photographic film, hides for leather, tankage, fertilizers and bone meal, as well as hearts, livers and other edible meat, are but a few of the items lost when the black marketeers operate."

The amazing boldness with which racketeers flout the law is recited in grim detail by the report.

"We've seen them operate in tires, gasoline and other scarce items," it said. "Now they have moved in in full force to deal in meats."

"Motorized rustlers travel the range lands at night, shooting animals where they find them, dressing them on the spot and driving away with the carcasses in the rear of the truck."

"Shady buyers travel the byways of the more settled country, buying live animals from farm to farm at over the market prices. They then dispose of them to illegal butchers, or set up in business for themselves. A deserted country road will serve, or a vacant warehouse at the edge of town."

"Retail butchers whose desire for meat is greater than their patriotism have bought meat at high prices, to parcel it out to housewives at higher rates."

"Consumers are urged to assist in wiping out the racketeers by refusing to purchase meat that does not carry a government stamp, or to pay higher than ceiling prices."

"If a dealer is profiteering," the report says, "it is pretty good evidence he obtains his supplies from the black market."

STEEL MAGNATES' LAME ALIBI

Senator Brewster of Maine warned the Senate that the steel moguls who sold defective steel plates to the government are carrying on a campaign to discredit the Truman Committee, which exposed their crookedness.

Their alibi is: "The government really suffered no loss. No lives were sacrificed. The higher-ups in the steel companies did not know what was going on."

Of course, that's all rubbish. No one knows how many lives might have been sacrificed if the Truman Committee had not caught the crooks before they were able to consummate their conspiracy.

The members of the committee are entitled to the thanks of the Republic, but what are we to say about the officers of the Navy Department and Maritime Commission who apparently didn't know what was going on, or if they did, failed to intervene.—Labor.

93,000 WORKERS ARE KILLED IN MISHAPS

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Industrial accidents in 1942 were, many times greater than those sustained by the nation's armed forces during the same period, according to Benjamin F. Fairless, president of United States Steel Corporation.

He said the country lost 988,000 persons last year in industrial accidents and appealed for the conservation of manpower through elimination of unnecessary mishaps.

The Danger of Hysteria

The action of the Japanese government in executing the captured American fliers was a cruel and inexcusable breach of international law, but the attempt of the government and the press of the United States to whip the people into a state of frenzied hysteria was hardly a credit to a great democracy.

Newspapers reported that the people were gripped by a "savage rage." Having a lot more respect for the common sense of the plain people of America than do some editors and government officials, we would say that the average American was bitterly indignant, but at the same time very much in control of himself.

The campaign to incite nationwide hysteria took the form of a demand in some quarters for the destruction of all Japanese cities, for the annihilation of the entire Japanese race, or for the internment of Japanese living in the United States, none of whom had the slightest thing to do with the sordid action of the Japanese government.

"I do not believe," said this statesman, "that there stands upon the free soil of the United States of America one single, solitary Jap, one single, solitary person with Japanese blood in his veins, but what there stands a man who will stab you in the back. Show me a Jap and I will show you a person completely full of treachery and deception."

This kind of dangerous drivel is unworthy of a Senator of the United States. His blanket indictment of all men and women of Japanese ancestry, including citizens of the United States, is totally unsupported by any facts, and his lust for revenge against men, women, and children who had nothing whatever to do with the executions sounds uncomfortably like the Nazi technique of terrorizing and imprisoning friends and relatives of German refugees who aid the Allied cause.

The United States can best show its loathing of the cruelty and lawlessness of the ruling Japanese militarists by proceeding grimly with the job we have hardly begun—the job of carrying the war to Japan and bringing the conflict to a victorious conclusion at the earliest possible moment.

War For Freedom

The half of million miners who were ready to strike to protect their "standard of living" are as vigorously opposed to fascism as any apologetic editorial writer, and self-righteous federal official, any soldier in the field of battle.

But to the miner—and to any exploited worker—fascism begins at home and must first be crushed at home. The miners and the auto workers, the garment workers and others who supported them were and are fighting the basic fight against fascism.

A war for freedom cannot be won by men who are not free—free politically and economically. The miners have demonstrated the truth of what Socialists have long said: That industrial democracy must be extended at home now, that the war will have meaning for the millions who are sweating and bleeding in proportion as it becomes a war for socialism.—The (Socialist) Call.

IN THE WIND

From THE NATION

Investors in war industries need not fear the economic consequences of the peace. Standard and Poor's Industrial Reports offer these words of cheer in a special supplement on General Motors: "Business concerns which have been at all careful in framing their war-production contracts will not be heavily embarrassed by cancellations. The government will be embarrassed. The taxpayers will be embarrassed. But not necessarily stockowners. Contracts have been drawn that way, as they should have been."

Elimination of Dr. Harold Rugg's textbooks from the public schools of San Francisco, boasts Advertising Age, was "a direct result of the efforts of the Pacific Advertising Association's school committee."

Gerald L. K. Smith, in The Cross and the Flag, makes the most cogent argument against Ely Culbertson's World Federation Plan: "As might be expected, he speaks with a Russian accent, was born in Rumania, and is a great admirer of the philosophy of Karl Marx."

The first two counts of the indictment are true. As for the third, in 1932 Culbertson published a book entitled "Red Russia Against the World." The 1940-41 edition of "Who's Who in America" lists it in Culbertson's biography; the 1942-43 edition does not.

The inquiring Photographer of a New York newspaper recently asked an ensign in the Waves how she felt about having dates with service men who are not officers. "I don't mind," she said. "I believe in democracy—but don't you print that! I might get into trouble." It was not printed.

There was a little flurry behind the scenes of recent "Town Meeting of the Air" broadcast from Pittsburgh when its local sponsors learned that the topic would be, "Should the President of the United States have a fourth term?" George A. Blackmore, chairman of the Westinghouse Air Brake Company, resigned as chairman of the sponsoring committee, and Dr. James H. Greene, executive vice-president of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, resigned as a committee member.

He said the country lost 988,000 persons last year in industrial accidents and appealed for the conservation of manpower through elimination of unnecessary mishaps.

USO. The rest of the committee carried on and raised enough to cover expenses, which were less than \$800.

Festung Europa: The official organ of the Dutch Nazi Elite Guard tells of the trouble the Guard had at one of its recent parades: "The marchers repeatedly had to break ranks to turn the heads of the citizens the right way."

SLUR ON COAL MINERS IS HIT BY ROBERTSON

An attempt by former Senator Edward R. Burke of Nebraska, now spokesman for Southern bituminous coal operators, to question the patriotism of United Mine Workers' leaders brought a sharp rebuke from the three-man panel hearing the coal wage case.

Elected to the Senate as a Democrat, Burke finally deserted his party, because it backed Roosevelt's "New Deal." At Monday's panel session he charged that Miners' had given no consideration to "sacrifices in order that the war may be won quickly."

Morris L. Cooke, panel chairman, declared the remark had no place in the proceedings and asked D. B. Robertson, labor member, whether he thought it ought to be deleted. Robertson replied sharply:

"If any one in public life, representing either the operators or miners, believes the workers in this country are not paying the supreme price and making every possible sacrifice to help win the war. I think it would be well if the public knew how he felt about it."

"Most people know what the workers are doing towards financing and fighting this war and it doesn't matter what anybody else says about it because the facts have been established."

Burke hastily backtracked, insisting he didn't question the patriotism of the miners.

2,991,287 EMPLOYED BY U. S. GOVERNMENT

Washington, D. C.—Civilian employment in the executive branch of the Federal Government totaled 2,991,287 on March 31, 1943, a net increase of 1,065,213 or 55 per cent over the 1,926,074 recorded at the end of March, 1942, the United States Civil Service Commission divulged.