

Reaction's Dual Drive

The lockout of the coal miners and the drive in Congress to destroy the Wagner Act represent two parallel attempts to achieve a similar result.

The aim is to weaken or destroy effective labor organization.

Labor's enemies use both economic and political weapons simultaneously—and ruthlessly—for their purposes.

While hundreds of thousands of miners are locked out, pressure is put upon the authorities in many states to deny to these miners and their families the unemployment compensation or relief to which they are entitled.

A disastrous coal shortage is caused by the efforts of open-shop interests to break the United Mine Workers and to bulldoze the public into tolerating their general drive against unionism.

At the same time every political string is pulled to prevent the administration from bringing the operators to reason and ending this situation in the public interest.

The same anti-labor interests that are behind the coal lockout are also behind the campaign to amend the Wagner Act. Through the economic weapon of the lockout they hope to weaken the union which is the backbone of the American labor movement, and then to follow this up with an open-shop drive in other industries.

Through the political action of crippling the Wagner Act, they hope to curtail the workers' right to organize and bargain collectively, and so to weaken labor resistance to future wage-cutting.

Labor can defeat this dual drive of reaction by being similarly active on both the economic and political fields.

The miners are solidly organized in the country's biggest labor union and they know how to deal with traitors and scabs. They are also assured of the solidarity of the whole CIO and of most of the AFL members as well.

But they need the political support of all public-spirited citizens to see that they are accorded the relief to which they are entitled during the lockout; and to impress upon the administration the importance of ending the lockout in the public interest.

The Wagner Act can similarly be saved from amendment, if Congress is given clearly to understand that the great majority of workers and of Americans generally desire the act which upholds American living standards to be preserved.

—Union News Service.

BACK TO COMMON SENSE

By FRANK VRATARICH

In the American trade union movement there has been too often a tendency to regard the Internationalist as the fool with his eyes on the ends of the earth. The whole spirit of May Day has been scoffed at as utopian and hopelessly idealistic, with no appeal to the hardheaded workers of the United States. Even many participants in May Day do not know fully how many facts and how much common sense is on their side. The patriot on the contrary dares not face facts or his myths of nationalist superiority, isolation, and self-sufficiency would quickly be dissolved like morning mists by the May Day sunshine.

Just now, with egotistical nationalism running riot and menacing us with the disease, death, and darkness of the Middle Ages, we must, to paraphrase Kipling, fill the unforgetting minute with 60 seconds worth of distance and run toward the goal of international cooperation away from the madness of nationalism.

No sensible person can be a nationalist aiming at isolation and self-sufficiency for some particular portion of the world in which the accident of birth placed him. Patriotism in its modern perversion too often signifies a hatred of other countries. Such a sentiment is as dangerous as it is outworn. Let us remember the red blood that flows in the veins of us all. We ought not to wait until the rats have bared the skeletons of American, German, French, Japanese and British workers in the wartime trenches to realize the biological unity of the human race. Already in art, science, and medicine, national frontiers have been ignored. Chaplin in the movies is not regarded as a mere Englishman; his appeal is universal. Einstein, like Marx and Gompers, are not confined to Jewish admirers who share their race.

The gum chewed in the subway comes from Nicaragua. Our morning coffee is a product of Brazil and if we change to tea we draw upon Ceylon or China. The rubber for our tires has been brought from the Dutch East Indies or from Brazil. The skins for our hot dogs and the stiff bristles for our brushes are also imported from foreign lands. And the silk in our tie and handkerchief, until we began the boycott, came from far-away Japan. Even the paper pulp used by such patriotic morons as Mr. Hearst to boast of America's self-sufficiency has to be imported from Canada along with the nickel which we hand to the newsboy. All these are samples for the economic interdependence of the world on which the modern well-being is based. Let our teachers insist that spaghetti and

macaroni are more permanent contributions made by Italy to the welfare of the human race than Mussolini; that the fame of French cooking has dwarfed the claims of Napoleon and many like him. That butter is better than guns for a sustaining diet.

Until now, cooperation between various sections of the human race has been haphazard. Henceforth, if mankind is to survive, it has to be recognized that civilization is the result of collective action and its perpetuation a communal responsibility of men to whom the accident of birth-place is not of supreme importance. It is this common sense which must find place in the schools. It corresponds to the facts and needs of modern life. It transcends the barriers of race, clime and creeds, to lead the way to conscious cooperation between men and women of good will in every corner of the globe.

Litvinov Out: Soviet Post Goes to Molotov

V. M. Molotov, 49-year old premier of the Soviet Union last week took over the additional duties of foreign commissar, replacing the veteran Maxim Litvinov at a time when Russia's policy in Europe was a crucial factor in a struggle to check expansionist nations and prevent war.

Molotov's opinion on aligning Russia in a military alliance with Great Britain and France, which Litvinov had been trying to do, and the reasons for Litvinov's resignation were secrets of Kremlin. The burning question throughout Europe was whether the new foreign minister will stop, slow, or speed the negotiations with France and Great Britain for a joint defense of any European country that may be attacked.

TO A STUDENT

Let crowded city pavements be your school,
Your text, the varied faces that you see,
An understanding heart and mind,
your tool,
The art of human kindness your degree.
E. K. Biddle.

Words of Wisdom

People do not rebel against sensible laws. A man instinctively wants to do what is right, but he objects to laws he feels are saddled upon him. As you break down respect for law, you break down respect for truth telling.—Francis L. Wellman.

JSF JUNIOR GUILD NOTES

Chicago, Ill.—About twenty members attended the JSF Junior Guild meeting at the Center last Friday evening, which ended up finally with a birthday party honoring no less than four Junior Guild members who are one year older this month.

Plans for their party on May 27, which is being arranged in conjunction with the Comrades, were enthusiastically discussed. These young folks are arranging an elaborate array of talent for their program on that evening which, of course, they hope everyone of you will attend.

In detail and sparing none of the long, difficult-to-pronounce names, Mitzi Owen told of the scenic beauties of Mexico and the ancient historical interest of the Mexican people, illustrating her talk with pictures she took of some of the most famous buildings, pyramids and other points of general interest. She also told of a personal interview with the famous artist, Diego Rivera, Mexico's greatest living painter.

After the meeting four members in particular and the whole group in general were pleasantly surprised with a birthday party arranged by some of the older comrades, and preceded with picture taking of the entire group.

126,000 MORE MINERS LEAVE THEIR JOBS

New York. — What threatens to develop into the biggest walkout in the coal fields in 17 years is now looming as negotiations for a peaceful settlement folded up last week. The Appalachian area covering eight states has already been shut down since April 1, with 320,000 miners idle.

To this number 126,000 additional miners in the eighteen bituminous states outside the Appalachian area was added last week when negotiations broke down.

John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers insists upon a closed shop, in the mining region, as a necessary protection against rival unions.

Anthracite Region May Go Out Too
There is great likelihood that the miners in the Anthracite or hard coal regions, involving about 100,000 miners, will also join the walkout. Their contract, which expired April 30, has not been renewed.

President Roosevelt intervenes
President Roosevelt has called upon the management and labor to arrive at "a fair, honorable and workable agreement" to end the walkout which has paralyzed the bituminous coal fields.

CONSUMER'S NOTES

Dyed vs. Printed Cotton Fabrics

You don't have to resort to a microscope and test tubes to tell the difference between a dyed and printed cotton fabric.
You can usually identify the fabric that is printed by comparing the back and the top side. In a printed fabric, the back is lighter than the top side; both sides are equally dyed in a dyed fabric.

In general, dyed fabrics keep their good looks much longer than printed ones, though that may vary with the quality of the dye used. No dye yet discovered will remain permanently "fast" under all conditions. Vat dyes—the most expensive—are the best for cotton goods.

When the label says a fabric is "color fast", find out what it is "fast" against—soap, or bleaching, or perspiration, or what. Washing a sample of the fabric, or exposing part of it to the sun for several hours are simple household tests to check on label guarantees against fading.

How Do You Clean Your Living Room Floor?

Water and a fine floor just don't go together.
Remember that cleaning maxim when you set out to preserve the finish on your floors and you won't run into trouble.

The best way to do an ordinary routine cleaning is to either sweep the floor—or run over it with a slightly oiled mop.

An excellent oil preparation for treating floors recommended by wood experts in the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, is a mixture of 3 parts kerosene and one part paraffin oil.

When your mop gets dirty, wash it out with hot soapy water, let it dry, and then dampen it again with the oil.
More information about caring for floors is in the Department of Agriculture Circular 489, "Selection, Installation, Finish, and Maintenance of Wood Floors for Dwellings." It is priced at 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

The real way to prevent war is to make life better, so much better that its security will be too precious to lose, so that people will not be willing to have war for the sake of better business.—Pearl Buck.

SEARCHLIGHT

By DONALD J. LOTRICH

We had a chance to speak with a number of our comrades and they would turn their claws into their past week-end about things and conditions. After an absence of about two years, the Slovene Metropolis seems to have changed but very little. The people are still active on the ballina courts and they do patronize the Headquarters of their Doms. We visited the Collinwood Dom Saturday evening and found it an exceedingly active spot. From there we went to the St. Clair Dom to look over the new clubrooms and to participate in the SNPJ Bowling Tournament Dance. The clubrooms have been neatly remodeled and reminded us of the Slovene Labor Center except that they are exceedingly larger and neatly decorated. So far as working conditions are concerned, there really hasn't been any real improvement.

Some of our folks are inclined to believe that if anything, conditions are somewhat relaxed. Nevertheless, our people still gather in groups and promote their social activities earnestly. Our impressions were very good for an average casual observer. However, that activity which once existed in the clubrooms of Branch 27, JSF, was lacking. The clubroom is mostly deserted where even a few years back one was able to find some of our comrades in attendance at most any hour of the day. Change of conditions have, no doubt, brought this about. Furthermore, diversified opinions have had much to do to reduce the importance of this functioning Socialist unit. Our comrades should resolve to give this Branch more time and consideration and to revive the days of a decade ago. More of the good will and better spirit is necessary from every indication.

of their natural selves and thereby form more closely knitted units which support their cooperative institutional efforts. We here in Chicago can easily do as much and must learn to give more attention to our combined efforts. One such occasion is offered this coming Saturday when the Slovene Labor Center holds its open house and to which we invite our many friends. Join us for a worthy cause.

One very pertinent question comes to the front at this time. That question is, will England out-manuever Germany or is it her aim to outwit the Russians? Whether it is the purpose of Chamberlain to entangle Russia in a German war and then take the spoils and divide them up with their Allies as they have in the past wars, or whether what he is doing is just simply a trick to involve England in such a bloody conflict is not known at this time. It is known however that Chamberlain has no particular likes for the Russians and it may be that he is trying to woo them into a trap where they can be subdued. At this stage it may appear that the Russians are smart enough to keep out of any conflict and it may be that they are waiting for England to get into the struggle against Germany before they step in. In that case, the results could be quite different. They could wait until England and Germany were pretty well worn out from the strife before friends in Cleveland, Ohio, over the weakened bodies, thus, causing revolutions and upsets in Germany and throughout the other capitalist democracies.

RENTS POOR CAN AFFORD TO PAY

NEW HOMES BUILT BY UNCLE SAM CAN BE HAD FOR \$2.20 WEEKLY

That it is possible to construct decent homes at a cost that will bring them within reach of low-income families has just been demonstrated by the United States Housing Authority.

It disclosed last week that five-room homes for 83 families will be erected at Vincennes, Ind., which will rent for \$2.20 a week. They will have heat and bath and space on three sides for gardens and flower beds. The development is within easy walking distance of Vincennes' main business section.

Nathan Straus, U. S. H. A. director, said that the buildings will last for at least 60 years and will be erected at union wage rates.

For Housing Census
Opposition to the measure comes mainly from "jerry" builders and landlords who contemplate with horror the prospect of competing with \$2.20 weekly rentals.

Straus declared that approval of the grant by Congress will provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers and will be a tremendous stimulus to recovery.

At the request of the American Federation of Labor, Senator "Bob" Wagner offered legislation last week for a housing census every five years.

The object, according to President William Green of the Federation, is to enable the government and industry to deal with the situation in an orderly manner.



WAR PROFITEERS

If anyone imagines that the profiteers are not "cashing in" on the preparedness program which Congress is so lavishly financing, he should consider the following facts supplied by Senator Homer T. Bone of Washington, a member of the State Naval Affairs Committee, and one of the men responsible for the expose of the Munitions Trust a few years ago.

Bone uses the Battleship West Virginia as an example. She was commissioned on December 1, 1923, and cost \$26,889,851. A similar ship today would cost the government \$66,000,000, and probably \$70,000,000, according to Bone.

He points out that wages were substantially as high when the West Virginia was built as they are now and that material costs are about the same.

Furthermore, Great Britain, in February of this year, launched the King George VI, which, like the West Virginia, is a 35,000-ton ship. The cost to Great Britain was \$40,000,000, or about 60 percent of what the United States would have to pay.

The difference represents the "rake-off" of the patriotic gentlemen who own our shipyards.—Labor.

Spain's Culture in Axis Hands As Franco Regiments Nation

Anti-Semitism, Anti-Masonry Pushed Throughout Country

France is rapidly going the way of all totalitarian flesh, ignoring none of the trimmings.

police agents; 1,000 army service specialists and 85,000 artillery and tank soldiers.

After wiping out all vestiges of trade unionism—including the Catholic organizations—the Caudillo regimented all means of expressions or news dissemination—radio, press, movies, theatres, universities, lecture halls, and even bull fights, since the gathering of many thousands in stadia throughout former loyalist territory will give anti-fascists the opportunity to distribute leaflets and communicate easily with one another.

Hold Key Military Posts
These would make a huge parade on May 2 in Madrid... if they were permitted to march, which they won't be since Italian strategists aren't taking their men out of key military positions. Franco may soon find himself in a position where he will have to turn the military administration of Spain over to Mussolini.

The film industry in Rebel Spain has been turned over to the axis, and today Italian and German films are rapidly replacing Hollywood super-specials. Practically all of the production work of the Spanish film company Cifesa—Compania Industrial Film Espanol Sociedad Anonima—is now done in German and Italian studios where pro-fascist films are turned out for distribution in Nationalist Spain and South America.

The feeling is that the Italians will cling to the peninsula until next winter when the danger of war will be sealed for months by the frosts. Mussolini can do this by keeping his men in Spain as special labor corps. A new Italian syndicate to carry out road, railway, bridge, dock and power station reconstruction has already been formed.

—New Leader.

America's "First Fifty" Families Shown in Old-Age Insurance Records

A list of the "first fifty families" in the United States has been compiled by the Social Security Board. These are not the fifty wealthiest families but those who have the proud distinction of having names more frequently used than any other in the country. These names appear in the rolls of workers who have applied for Federal old-age insurance.

Approximately 10 percent of the 43,000,000 account numbers assigned under the Federal old-age insurance system, John J. Corson, Director of the Bureau of Old-Age Insurance, said, "are held by workers with some one of these fifty names."

The Smiths head the list with approximately 418,000. The Johnsons, Browns, Williamses, and Millers follow in that order, with the Joneses holding sixth place. The Owens and Nichols families are tied for last place among the "first fifty" having about 20,000 each.

"With approximately 14,000 applications for account numbers arriving daily at the Bureau of Old-Age Insurance, the totals and order of precedence of family names are constantly changing.

"But the general picture is fairly constant. When it is remembered that hundreds and even thousands of persons among the 43,000,000 for whom the Bureau has set up accounts have not only the same family name, but also the same first name, the absolute necessity of accurate identification will be realized. This is why each applicant is asked to give his exact name, age, and other identifying information, and why each is then assigned an individual account number.

A New Version

Little Boy (reading item from Manchuria)—What does it mean here by "seasoned troops," dad?
Dad (immediately)—Mustered by the officers and peppered by the enemy.

"SAVA'S"
Spring Concert and Dance
SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 20
SNPJ HALL, 2657 SO. LAWNDALE AVENUE
Brilliant array of talent - Dancing in both halls
ADMISSION 35c, AT DOOR 40c
Music by Johnny Kochevar's Orchestra