

Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. 5, No. 44.

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1936

5 Cents a Copy

USSR Ready for Possible Break; Rebels Gain

Declares Self Bound To Pact "Only As Much As Others". Spanish Government Shifts Office To Barcelona

In a week clouded by the absence of public statements, the relationship of Soviet Russia to the London Committee for Non-Intervention in Spain seems to have become strained, with the outcome yet in doubt. Russia's policy has been to move France to concerted action; it was this thought that brought her into the neutrality pact. Once the great and obvious dangers of holding this position crystallized in France's capitulation to the outrageous actions of the Italian-German-English block, Russia threatened independent action. That the tremendous mass pressure at home is causing Blum to constantly waver (albeit with a tendency to be a little too constant to Anthony Eden), is adequately revealed by the new line of attack assumed by England.

The latter has attempted to quash the Spanish indictment against Italy and Germany, and to drown Russia's proposals in a sea of diplomatic red-tape. However, public sympathy for Spain has caused a new wrinkle. Now England accuses Russia of violating the neutrality agreement by sending arms to Spain—and of being guilty three times as much as Italy, thus lifting the burden from the fascists!

It is doubtful whether the Soviet Union will be impressed with these "charges". At present, the USSR has declared herself "not bound more than the other powers by the agreement"—which means not at all, altho still remaining in the committee. Portugal's break with Madrid (which means the indirect diplomatic break of England) has raised the question of the defection of Italy and Germany from the committee. In such a case France would be left with

UNION HITS AT D. A.'S BIAS

Knitgoods Council Sees "Red-Herring" As Cover For Open Shoppism

The following letter was sent this week to the foreman and members of the additional Grand Jury, New York County, 32 Franklin Street, New York City by Louis Nelson, Manager of the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union:

"Publicity given recently in the columns of the New York press seems to indicate that Mr. Sullivan, Assistant District Attorney, has openly arrayed himself on the side of the open shop manufacturers in their fight against organized labor.

We most respectfully suggest to your body that while you are investigating union activities, you may be rendering a public service if you will investigate some of the conditions prevailing in the knitgoods industry, for we notice that Mr. Sullivan is quoted in the press as having said that non-union em-

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Russia, which is the hope of the Soviets.

A shift in the emphasis of the Spanish civil war to Catalonia has already given its first indications, even before the fall of Madrid. The government has been shifting its offices to Barcelona, and it is expected that from there the struggle will enter its second stage. The possibility exists that this second stage will be far more revolutionary due to the influence of the proletarian junta in Catalonia.

Despite these preparations for the future, no effort is being spared in the preparations for the defense of Madrid. Today, the fascist forces are within a radius of 12 miles of the capital, altho the railroad to Valencia remains uncut, and fierce fighting at Aranjuez has evoked heroic defense on the part of the workers forces.

OFFICE WORKERS ELECT PROGS

The non-partisan progressive slate made a clean sweep in the elections in the Bookkeepers Stenographers and Accountants Union, Local 12646, A. F. of L. on Monday, October 19th, in a record turnout of 1200 voters. The united slate, headed by Louis Merrill and supported by the Communist Party, the Communist Party (Opposition), and large sections of independent progressives, received over 60% of the total vote.

The vote for president of the Union was 716 for Merrill against 464 for Sam Baron. The highest vote for the Executive Board was received by Harry Fox, Progressive, who received 773, as against 548 obtained by the highest candidate on the Socialist slate. Among other candidates elected were Peter Hawley, Rose Fisher, Art Krubel, Albert Epstein, Ann Robbin, Ida Snyder, Bertha Gerst, M. Yanoff, and others as well as several unopposed Socialists.

The election results of the BS & AU are a defeat for those elements who fought against progressive unity and collaboration within the union, and who sought to establish and perpetuate a small, factional, clique leadership, based upon a program of red-baiting. The newly elected leadership will have the task of overcoming the disunity in the ranks of the Union, of broadening the leadership and mobilizing the entire membership for an organization drive among white collar workers thruout the city, and of establishing genuine collective leadership and inner Union democracy. The Progressives will also guard against any attempt on the part of a section of the new administration to introduce the theory and practice of "peoples front" into the union, as such a theory means reconciliation with the democratic sections of the bourgeoisie, and therefore class collaboration with the "less reactionary" bosses.

LAYOFFS ENDED BY AUTO UNION

Force Dodge Company To Rehire Thousands; CIO Aids Settlement

Detroit, Mich.—With the agreement of the Chrysler Corporation to rehire thousands of employees they had permanently laid off, to adjust the cases of three union members discharged for union activities, and to enforce strict seniority regulations, workers in the Dodge Local, United Automobile Workers of America, have gained the most significant victory in the history of the automobile union in Detroit.

The controversy between the union and management began several weeks ago during the lay-off season when the Dodge Company mailed letters to a large number of their employees telling them that because of technological changes their services would not be needed on the 1937 models. Claiming that in a large number of instances, seniority regulations agreed to by Chrysler under the Automobile Labor Board were being violated, the union took up the cases and insisted on adjustment. The three cases of discrimination against union membership were pressed at the same time. Richard T. Frankenstein, Detroit Organizational Director, was chairman of the negotiations committee.

Although negotiations and mass meetings had been held for several weeks, the week immediately preceding settlement of the controversy was one of feverish activity by the local. Committees met nightly, and handbills were distributed daily at the Dodge plant at every change of shift. Seven of the departmental units of the Local had already taken strike votes with only eleven votes cast against. The other four units were preparing to vote.

Both for Krzycki and for Allan S. Haywood, United Rubber Workers of America, the audience jumped to its feet in a rising vote of thanks for their support and the support of the CIO. Haywood and Adolph Germer, United Mine Workers of America, represented the CIO during the negotiations with the management.

A. L. P. YOUTH GROUP SET UP

Three hundred delegates from 63 labor, educational, social, and fraternal organizations met at the Hotel Claridge, in New York City on October 9 and set up a Youth Division of the American Labor Party.

The delegates adopted resolutions endorsing President Roosevelt and Governor Lehman for reelection, endorsing the program of the party, and setting up the Youth Division as a permanent organization.

The Central Trades and Labor Council of Elmira, New York, voted unanimously to affiliate with the American Labor Party. Other city-wide labor bodies which have similarly affiliated with the new party include the Central Trades and Labor Councils of Binghamton, Utica, and Jamestown.

Shoe Workers Back CIO in Unity Drive

Salem, Mass.—The Committee for Industrial Organization was endorsed at the convention of the United Shoe & Leather Workers Union, attended by 60 delegates, representing some 30,000 workers.

The C.I.O. was asked to cooperate in a movement to unite the various unions in the shoe industry into one industrial organization.

Besides the Shoe and Leather Workers and the American Federation of Labor union, the Boot & Shoe Workers, there are a number of other unions in the industry, including the Brotherhood of Shoe & Allied Craftsmen, which has voted through its executive board to endorse the C.I.O., the Shoe Workers Protective Union and the American Shoe Workers Union.

GREEN HINDERS GUILD STRIKE

The strike of the Newspaper Guild being conducted against the Hearst-owned Seattle Post-Intelligencer, found itself weakened by the action of William Green of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. The strike, which has the support of almost every union on the West Coast, was, by implication, pronounced unjustified when Green stated that the men should go back to work and then discuss terms. The two Guild men who were discharged for union activity (the cause of the strike) need not, said Brother Green, go back. Thus the Executive Council would throw away the carefully built up strength of the Seattle Guild, and hand it over to the tender mercies of Hearst.

When Green was asked whether this "solution" had to be accepted by the Seattle Central Trades and Labor Council, which started the investigation, he stated that: "Well, we have the right to lift the charter of a body that refuses to carry out this suggestion."

GERMAN WORKERS STRIKE TO FORCE MAINTENANCE OF WAGES

Berlin—German labor is actively resisting the attempt of German capitalists to reduce its low wages to still lower starvation levels. Announcements by factory managers to this effect have been answered in a number of cases by "sitting down" strikes, and in two instances have been successfully defeated by the strikers.

At the D. K. W. Motor Works at Spandau near Berlin, the workers struck when they were informed of a pending wage cut from 1.02 marks to 0.94 marks per hour. Despite the appeal of the company, the police, the sending of emergency squads and the arrest of a number of workers, the strikers remained firm. Even attempts by officials of the German Labor Front to mediate the differences were unsuccessful and finally the management was forced to reestablish the old wages.

At the Motor Works of Bauer and Schauberte in the Rhineland, a similar strike took place in which more than 1,500 men participated. The strike was the answer of the

ITALY, GERMANY IN JOINT PACT

Nazi's Recognize Italy's Rule In Ethiopia; Secret Agreement On Austria

Signs of at least a temporary agreement between the two regimes that have bluffed Europe the most in the past few months were manifested in the recent conferences of Ciano, representing Italy and Neurath of Germany. The text of the agreement has not been made public, and it is understood that no formal pact will be drawn up as yet.

The agreement includes immediate recognition of the fascist government should it capture Madrid (a point England is known to accept also); mutual economic concessions; Italy's guaranteeing a Franco-German pact etc. It is in this latter point that the "anti-bolshevist front" arises. Hitler of course has anti-Sovietism as the guiding line of his foreign policy, which means specifically that he is out to break the Franco-Soviet pact.

Neither country could afford to enter any permanent agreement at present. Italy is not taking any chances in allying herself with Germany against England and France—not while she can shout "boo" at England and grab slices of land here and there. Germany hopes to break England away from France, and cannot be too friendly with Italy for that reason.

Nevertheless, Germany has decided to recognize Italy's conquest of Ethiopia, something about which Ribbentrop, Nazi envoy to Great Britain, will have to do some tall explaining.

However, England will probably be satisfied with the promise to "recognize the necessity of maintaining the territorial integrity of Spain, both colonial and on the mainland." This is supposed to assure her that no islands have been promised to Italy by Franco. If believed by Downing Street, it guarantees England's support to the Spanish rebels.

"RANK AND FILE" IN TEACHERS UNION REVIVE GOMPERS LINE

By D. BENJAMIN

The opportunist line of the Rank and File tendency in the labor movement on the question of the Peoples Front has landed it into the discredited position of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. of "reward your friends and defeat your enemies". This was made clear at the last meeting of the Executive Board of the Teachers Union where the Rank and File Group Majority adopted the policy of "Defeat McNaboe", a reactionary, Democratic candidate for State Senate, thus giving objective aid to the candidacy of the Republican candidate, Mr. Burke, co-partner of Landon, Hamilton Fish, and Co.

Senator McNaboe, initiator of the vicious legislative investigation and inquisition into "radicalism" in the New York schools that is about to take place, undoubtedly should be defeated in the coming election. But to carry on propaganda—the motion was to have street-corner meetings, loudspeakers, house to house canvassing, etc.—for the defeat of McNaboe, without putting forth a constructive proposal as for whom the workers, teachers, etc. should vote, would mean that his major rival candidate, Mr. Burke of the Republican Party, would get greater support than he ordinarily could expect. What other interpretation could be placed by the average worker in that election district, who was not yet ready to vote the

SALLITO APPEAL IS DENIED

The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Southern District of New York has sustained a decision of the District Court which last March dismissed a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of Dominick Sallitto—an Italian anti-fascist who has been ordered deported to Italy by the Labor Department or charges of a purely political nature.

Attorneys for the defense have appealed to the courts on the basis that no direct evidence has ever been introduced to sustain the charge preferred against Sallitto—a fact which was admitted by the Washington Board of Review in its Review in its report of November 6, 1935—and that the order of deportation was obtained through biased and prejudiced influence and without due process of law. In affirming the decision of the lower court the Court of Appeal has rendered no written opinion and this fact is considered symptomatic of the attitude the courts take in deportation cases of this nature.

Communist or Socialist ticket, than that he should support the Republican ticket?

The solution to the problem is quite obvious—a Labor Party candidate. The Teachers Union, affiliated with the trade union movement and with the American Labor Party, would then be able to speak clearly and effectively on this question. In the absence of such an alternative, with the Teachers Union being either unwilling or unable to corral votes for the Socialist or Communist tickets, the policy adopted would mean in the case of the most voters influenced by its propaganda, support for the Republican candidate running under the Republican emblem.

Generally speaking, the Rank and File tendency considers the Republican party the party of reaction and near-fascism, with the Democratic Party one of the so-called parties of progress or very close to that (granted the exertion of more pressure against it from the left). In this case, due to his vicious, black record against labor and teachers, it was necessary to consider McNaboe as the near-fascist; so automatically Burke the Republican, had to be considered the candidate of near-progress!

Thus does the Rank and File policy of considering one of the two capitalist parties as near-and potential-fascist and the other therefore, for the sake of achieving a "broad peoples front", the party of near-and potential-progress, lead to the support of Democrats and Republicans, as the situation happens to be in each individual case.

Does not the Rank and File realize that electing this man or defeating this candidate of the two major capitalist parties will get the working class exactly nowhere? Has not the progressive trade union movement fought this traditional policy of Gompers as one that keeps the workers enchained continuously to the two parties of Big Business? There is only one solution, even though it may take time to achieve it; that is, the development of a real labor Party movement.

Does it mean that nothing can be done against McNaboe and the "Investigation Into Radicalism in the Schools"? Not at all! Just as a campaign is being developed against Hearst and what he represents, so can a local campaign be carried on exposing the investigation and the forces behind it. Electing another McNaboe in place of the present one does not make the labor movement forward even one inch.

The Rank and File should drop the Peoples Front policy and one of its already obvious sub-fruits—the policy of "defeating your enemies" by electing your enemies.

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employees were "forced" to join the Union and go on strike. He has made no independent investigation of these charges. He has taken the word of these anti-union manufacturers. Had he made an investigation, he would have found, for instance, that in the shop of Mr. Aaron Donoian, of the Egin Braid Co., one of the star witnesses for the employers, young girls workers are compelled to labor 70 hours a week for as low as \$5.00. For example, Helen Keenan, a floor girl receives \$5.00 for a 70 hour week; Rose Scham a winder receives \$14.00 for a 70 hour week; Sigmund Fuchs, a spooler, receives \$12.00 for a 70 hour week. Had Mr. Sullivan made that investigation, he would have ascertained that the workers of the Egin Braid Co. refused to tolerate such slavery and went out on strike spontaneously and of their own free will to put a stop to this sweat shop method of operation.

It seems to us that instead of investigating facts impartially, the old "red herring" of Communism is repeatedly trotted out by Assistant District Attorney Sullivan. This shop-worn charge is certainly no compliment to him. The position of our Union has been made clear to everybody who wishes to have clarity on the question. Our Union is an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor ever since its existence.

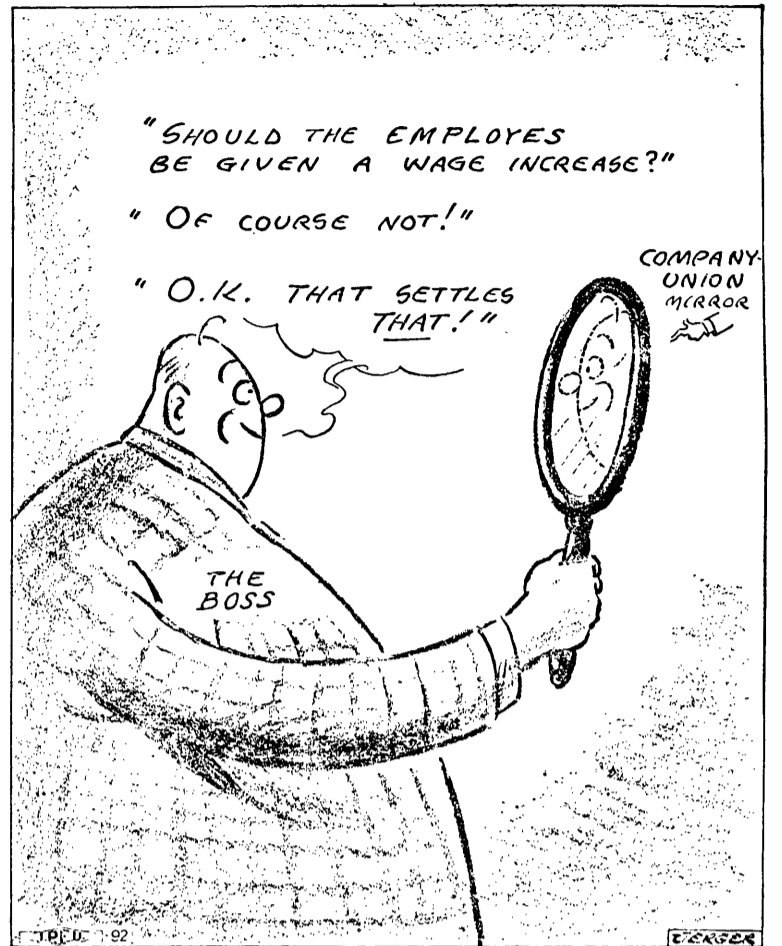
EUROPE TODAY

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made to the working class. The C.P. fraction in the Chamber protested against devaluation in words, but actually voted for it. It is loudly calling for taxation of the rich—in words.

In order to assure the passage of the devaluation bill, Leon Blum made a speech in the Chamber calling for "law and order" and threatening to use force in cases of sit-down strikes. Compulsory arbitration of labor disputes is being initiated. The fascist organizations are arming systematically

"EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION"



Courtesy Union News Service

and preparing provocative actions all over the country.

The People's Front government and the People's Front have committed suicide, because they dared not wage a serious struggle against big capital and were thus driven to accept devaluation. The bourgeoisie will soon dismiss the People's Front government after having discredited it even further amongst the working class and the petty bourgeoisie.

The whole thing is nothing but a repetition of the history of the coalition policy of the German Social Democracy except that the various stages are much shorter and the development as a whole much accelerated. What took years in Germany, is accomplished in so many months in France.

The new factor in the situation is the participation of the C.P. The only solution lies in the initiative

of the proletarian masses themselves—betrayed as they have been by the S.P., the C.P. and the trade unions.

London, Sept. 30, 1936

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WORKERS AGE

Organ of the National Committee, Communist Party U. S. A. (Opposition).
51 West 14th Street, New York, N. Y. Phone: GRamercy 5-8903.

Published every Saturday by the Workers Age Publishing Association. Subscription Rates: \$1.00 per year; \$.60 for six months; 5c a copy. Foreign Rates: \$1.50 per year.

Entered as second class matter Nov. 5, 1934, at the Post Office New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879.

Address mail to Box 68 Station "O" New York City.

Vol. 5, No. 44.

Saturday, October 31, 1936.

THE INTERNATIONAL CLASS STRUGGLE

Published by the Communist Party (Opposition) for the International Communist Opposition.

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