

# A Negro Labor Organizer

By Earl R. Browder

**N**EWs of the stevedores' strike in Philadelphia brings the interesting item that Ben Fletcher, Negro labor organizer who went to Leavenworth prison with the I. W. W. boys in 1918, is again on the job leading the struggle of the workers against the capitalists.

Fletcher is a living symbol of the possibilities of unity between white and black workers. He proves the ability of the Negro to organize. He demonstrates the class-consciousness, loyalty, and capacity for self-sacrifice of the Negro workers.

It was my pleasure to become acquainted with Fletcher while I was in Leavenworth with him. It is significant that among the political prisoners there, almost all workers, Fletcher was held in high respect. Any suggestion of racial prejudice between the white and black political prisoners would have been hooted down as ridiculous. We were all comrades in prison together.

In the March issue of the WORKERS MONTHLY, Maurice Becker portrays in his splendid lithographs some of the tortures that the political prisoners had to undergo. Among these was one which carried a line underneath describing it: "Guards Urge Negro Murder to Attack I. W. W. Prisoners," based upon an actual occurrence in Leavenworth. Some attempt has been made to interpret this as a sign that the political prisoners harbored race prejudice against the Negroes. Nothing could be further from reality, nor from

Becker's intentions in writing this line. And no one who had been in prison during that period could make such a suggestion. While one Negro, a degenerate, was being used as a tool by the prison officials, another Negro, Ben Fletcher, was a leading figure among the political prisoners who stood up heroically under their persecution.

The reason that it has been possible for anyone to criticize Maurice Becker's cartoon and the line beneath it is because the capitalist press continually carries on a vicious and malicious campaign, in which they use the trick of continually stressing the word "Negro" as applied to criminals of that race, while no Negro ever receives favorable mention from them unless for abasing himself before his capitalist overlords.

The Communist attitude toward the Negro and his problems differs from that of the bourgeois-sentimentalist who proclaims himself a "friend of the Negro," as it does from the dastardly capitalist propaganda of race hatred. The Communists meet the Negroes as comrades, unite with them in close organizational co-operation to realize our common tasks, and wage war upon bourgeois-cultivated prejudices. We greet and offer our co-operation to the Fletchers, Whites, Dotys and Phillips, who are undertaking the gigantic task of organizing the Negro workers for common struggle with the white workers, and for their common emancipation from capitalist exploitation.

## To a Man Sleeping In a Subway Train

**M**AN, you are ugly,  
Excruciatingly ugly,  
Sleeping in this train  
That hurtles your graceless self  
Through the black veins of the city.

Yours is the sleep of a sodden lethargy;  
Yours is the sleep of a concious death;  
Yours is the sleep of the masses.

Man, you are ugly,  
Sleeping in this crowded train,  
Where men's eyes spit contempt at you,  
And men's lips write smirking sneers  
Within the secret pages of their minds:  
You know these pitying smiles  
Curling in the corners of men's mouths.

Man, you are ugly,  
Sleeping so,  
Unguarded by your little conceits.  
Your face shrieks out the dumbness of the clod  
Louder than the faces of cows.  
There is a heavy stupidity about your eyes and mouth,  
Known of mute beasts only.

Man, you are ugly,  
Sleeping so,  
Sleeping the sleep of the masses.  
I would shake your limp shoulders,  
Even with the mighty hands of revolt.  
I would wake you,  
Even with the terrible hands of pain,  
And cry:

Hear you not the tender voice of beauty  
Whose lips press close to the earth  
Above the subway's darkness,  
That you may hear?

And cry:

Hear you not the swift feet of the wind  
Running down the sun splashed street  
Over your head,  
That you may follow?

And cry:

Good God, man, wake up,  
You are ugly,  
Sleeping so,  
Sleeping the sleep of the masses.

HERSCHELL BEK.

# Revolution in Trade Union Terms

By William F. Dunne

## MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION

### TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL DELEGATES

**HERBERT SMITH, J.P.**  
Nineteen years President Yorkshire Miners' Federation. President, Miners' Federation of Great Britain since 1921. Vice-President, 1907. Served on several Royal Commissions. President, International Miners' Committee. Member of School Board, West Riding (Yorks.), County Council and other Public Bodies for many years. Member, Parliamentary Committee, Trades Union Congress, 1913-16 and General Council, 1923-24. Appointed J. P. in 1915. Member, Central Committee, Miners' Welfare and Central Committee, Mining Examining Board.

**BEN TILLET**  
General Secretary of the Trade Unions since 1889. Founder of Dockers' Union which originated from the Tea Coopers and General Laborers' Union established in 1887. A pioneer of Trade Union Movement nationally. Contested several Parliamentary elections. Elected for North Salford 1917. Seat held until 1924. Remained Dockers' General Secretary until amalgamation to Transport and General Workers' Union. Now Secretary of Political and International Department of Amalgamated Union. Member of Trades Union Congress General Council since 1922. Member of Parliamentary Committee, Trades Union Congress, 1892-4.

**JOHN TURNER**  
Associated with Socialist organizations since 1884. Intimate with founders and leaders of Socialist thought, such as William Morris, Belfort Bax, and other Pioneers. Closely associated with Prince Kropotkin from 1886 until his return to Russia in 1917. A pioneer of Shop Hours Legislation and founder of Shop Assistant's Union. Official of this union from 1898 until retirement as General Secretary after twelve years in this position until 1924. Elected to General Council, Trades Union Congress, 1921; re-elected by Congress each year to 1924 for period to September, 1925.

**JOHN BROMLEY, M.P.**  
A pioneer of Railway Trade Unionism and held many positions of trust prior to appointment as Branch Secretary of Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, 1904. Elected Organizing Secretary of the union, 1910. Secretary also of Conciliation Boards. Elected General Secretary of the union, 1914. Elected member of Labor Party Executive, 1920 and 1921. Elected member of Trade Union Congress General Council, 1922-24. Member of Labor Party delegation to Ireland. Three times candidate for Barrow, elected 1924. Prominently associated with Labor and Socialist propaganda for many years.

**ALAN A. H. FINDLAY**  
Member of United Patternmakers' Association since 1893. Branch Secretary and other offices. Elected Assistant Secretary, Executive Department, 1913. Elected General Secretary, 1917. Formerly Treasurer, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades Federation for three years, subsequently appointed President, at present occupying this position. Elected to Trades Union Congress General Council, 1921, re-elected each year until 1924, for term ending September, 1925.

**A. A. PURCELL (Chairman of Delegation)**  
Member, Furnishing Trades Union since 1891. Member, Social Democratic Federation many years. Member, Salford Borough Council for six years. Sectional Secretary, subsequently Organizer, Furnishing Trades. Parliamentary candidate, West Salford, 1910. Contested Coventry, 1923-24. Elected 1923. Successful Arbitrator in Co-operative and other disputes. Elected to General Council, Trades Union Congress, 1919, re-elected each year. Elected by Trade Union International Conference, Vienna, 1924, as President. President at 1924 Trade Union Congress. Vice-Chairman, General Council. Appointed delegate to American Labor Convention, 1925. Accompanied the Delegation to Russia in 1920.

**FRED BRAMLEY (Secretary to Delegation)**  
Many years active with political and industrial branches of the Labor Movement. Several years full time Lecturer on Social and Economic subjects in connection with "Clarion" Newspaper. Formerly Organizing Secretary, Furnishing Trades Association. Appointed Assistant Secretary, Trades Union Congress, 1917; General Secretary, 1923. Served on several Government Committees. Member of Royal Commission on National Health Insurance and National Debt Commission.

### ADVISORY DELEGATES

**HAROLD G. GRENFELL**  
Entered Navy, 1883; retired in 1920 with rank of Captain. Admiralty Intelligence Department, 1904-1905. Governor of Hong Kong Naval Prison, 1907-8; Admiralty War Staff, 1910-1911; Naval Attache, British Embassy, St. Petersburg, April, 1912 to November, 1917; Head of Naval Mission to Finland, December, 1918-June, 1919; Joined Independent Labor Party, 1919. Member of Advisory Committee on Army, Navy, and Pensions.

**A. R. McDONELL**  
Educated St. Paul's School, London. C.B.E. (Civil); Resident in Russia, 1902-1919; British Vice-Council, Baku, South Russia, 1901-1916. British Military Forces in Caucasus and North Persia, 1916-19 (Temporary Major). Foreign Office Temporary 1st Division Clerk, 1919-1923.

**GEORGE YOUNG**  
Educated Eton and Foreign Universities. M.V.O. Diplomatic Service (passing in Russian 1896-1915.) Admiralty Intelligence, 1915-18. Volunteered in ranks, February, 1918 and commissioned R. M. A., August. "Daily News" Correspondent through German Revolution, December, 1918-August, 1919. Professor of Portuguese, 1919-22, and Examiner in Ottoman Law, London University. Joined the Labor Party, 1915, and accompanied Delegation to Russia in 1920. Member of Advisory Council on International Affairs. Parliamentary candidate, South Bucks, 1923, and 1924. Author of numerous works on foreign affairs.

It is because the language of the report is the language of trade unionists at conventions of central bodies, state federations of labor, congresses and trades councils as they call them in England, the language of convention reports, that it will be understood.

It is wonderful in its dignified British fashion unhurried, careful, restrained, documented and beautifully dispassionate. It might be a report on housing conditions read before the local group of trade union secretaries at their monthly meeting.

But this very caution of utterance has aroused the fury of the yellow socialists and other masked counter-revolutionists the world over. Perhaps I am mistaken but it seems to me that no one is more surprised at the abuse heaped upon them since the publication of their report than the members of the British Trade Union delegation.

But they are not merely surprised—they are resentful. They apparently thought there was no one but outright imperial-

**C**ONSERVATIVE, schooled in the loved intricacies of British democracy which keeps a king for the sake of contrast, nurtured in the belief that the world outside is full of howling savages, brought up to reverence the rigid moral code of non-conformism, it has yet remained for the British trade unionists to bring the Russian revolution 3000 miles closer to the masses of organized workers of the Anglo-Saxon nations than has been done heretofore.

The British Trade Union delegation to Soviet Russia in a unanimous report which, with preface and appendix, covers 275 pages, has told the story of the Russian revolution in language that trade unionists can understand. "Ah", someone will say, "we told you Communists you were talking over the heads of the workers." But the organized workers will understand the British Trade Union report not because of its simple language—not at all. Its language is not simple.