

Restore W.P.A. Wages

an editorial

Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. 7, No. 33.

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1938.

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WHAT has been happening recently in the W.P.A. in New York should serve as a direct challenge to every labor organization of this city, to every person, in fact, who believes that the relief system should be operated so as to relieve the desperate plight of the unemployed rather than advance the selfish interests of a small clique of insiders at the expense of the great majority of the jobless.

Some weeks ago, we called attention to a series of ruthless wage-cuts inflicted upon many thousands of white-collar workers on W.P.A. projects in this city. Thru a cunning process of "re-classifications," "reratings" and direct reductions, wages were slashed 10%, 15% and even 25% in some cases. Cuts for \$23.86 a week to \$16.50 were by no means unknown. What it all meant to the victims, it is not hard to imagine—hardly the "security" and "more abundant life" about which they are always talking in Washington.

These brutal wage slashes, bringing the much-boasted "security" level down to \$55.78 a month in some cases, were put thru in the name of economy, in the name of saving the taxpayer's money. Now we discover that this plea was nothing but a shameless fraud! For, while the wages of the \$16.50 clerks were being cut to less than \$15, the salaries of certain sections of the supervisory and administrative staff of the New York W.P.A. were being raised by more than the entire earnings of these clerks! Whereas the clerical forces of the W.P.A. have had their pay reduced three times since the beginning of the year, the administrative and supervisory staff have received three raises under the Somervell regime, some of them doubling their former earnings. And these raises have been supplemented by special privileges, such as sick leave, vacations, paid holidays, all of which the workers on W.P.A. emphatically do not enjoy.

This, then, is the set-up: The low-paid workers on W.P.A., those whom the whole work-relief system is presumably intended to serve, have their meager wages slashed in order to make possible salary increases and special privileges for certain sections of the administrative and supervisory staff!

And, in the face of this outrageous swindle, what has the Workers Alliance done, the Workers Alliance which claims to represent the interests of the unemployed? Not a move, not a word of real protest—nothing but servile fawning upon the Administration at Washington and shabby apologies for the W.P.A. higher-ups. In this emergency, as in so many others in recent years, the Workers Alliance has proved itself to be not an organization really defending the interests of the unemployed but a veritable "company union" covering up for the W.P.A. authorities!

Fortunately, the labor movement of this city has taken up the cause of the unemployed as its own. Scores of protests from unions have poured down upon Washington. A first result has been an important ruling by Harry Hopkins, W.P.A. head, barring salary increases for higher-paid W.P.A. administrative employees without authorization from Washington. This is something, but far from enough. Allan S. Haywood, New York regional director of the C.I.O. hit the nail right on the head

C.P. Beaten In Maritime

New York, N. Y.—Final announcement of results of the balloting in the National Maritime Union showed a crushing defeat for the Communist party-controlled leadership in that union headed by Joseph Curran. Five of the nine members of the national council, led by Jerome King who ran against the Communist Party member Jack Lawrenson for Secretary-Treasurer of the union, were elected, thus taking decisive control out of the hands of the Stalinists. Mr. King received 8,417 as against 6,788 for Mr. Lawrenson.

A stormy membership meeting attended by some 2,000 from all divisions of the union ratified the election results despite provocative acts of the Stalinists which would have ended the meeting in a free for all. Defeated Jack Lawrenson could not make himself heard at the meeting as he was howled down by an enraged membership. He later explained he had intended to state that he was not a member of the Communist Party. Jerome King addressed the membership and vigorously repudiated the slander campaign conducted by Joseph Curran to the effect that King was anti-C.I.O. and intended to lead the maritime workers back into the A. F. of L.

Now in control of a clear majority on the National Council, Mr. King announced that two steps are being contemplated to carry out the mandate of the membership in voting to rid the union of Stalinist control. He intends to clear the union of some forty members of the bookkeeping and clerical staff all of whom were handpicked by the Stalinists. These will be replaced with an office staff loyal to the union. In addition Mr. King intends to replace the staff of the official organ, The Pilot, which in the past had been used to slander Mr. King and his associates.

In addition to Mr. King the following opposition candidates were declared elected: Frederick Phillips, secretary of the Atlantic District; George H. Hearn, treasurer of the Atlantic District; Arthur Thomas, chairman Gulf District; Charles Torres, treasurer Gulf District. President Joseph Curran ran unopposed.

The election was marked by numerous physical, sometimes bloody encounters, instigated by the Stalinist administration, in a desperate attempt to stave off defeat.

in his comment on the Hopkins order. Declared Mr. Haywood:

"Mr. Hopkins's action is highly commendable. I think it will stop abuses that have been going on in W.P.A., not only here but elsewhere, for some time. This business of letting local administrators pay preferred salaries to select employees whom they dub 'highly-skilled professionals,' has always been dangerous. I'd like to see Mr. Hopkins carry his order a little farther and restore the pay-cuts ordered recently for W.P.A. security workers. These cuts, inflicted upon people whose salaries were at subsistence levels to begin with, have worked a great deal of hardship."

Restore the W.P.A. wage-cuts! The W.P.A. should be run for the welfare of the unemployed!

U. A. W. Ousts Stalinist Splitters to Save Union

Lovestone Home Is Burglarized By G.P.U.; Documents Missing

New York, N. Y.—The home of Jay Lovestone was broken into and burglarized on July 17, it was revealed this week. Losses consisted of documents, clothing and other personal property. The case was immediately placed in the hands of the police and a number of remarkable angles soon began to develop. The most amazing of these was the use of some of these stolen documents by attorney Maurice Sugar in the suspension trial in the United Automobile Workers Union.

In typical Moscow fashion, attorney Sugar concocted a defense for his Stalinist clients consisting of an amalgam of truths, half-truths, and outright forgeries and fabrications. The question arises—where did Mr. Sugar get what legitimate documents he did use?

It is also clear from the manner in which the burglary was committed, details of which we cannot go into at this time, that experts did the job. This is also borne out by the fact that extremely few people knew the location of Lovestone's home, for frequent threats and warnings from G.P.U. sources has made secrecy as to this home location a prime condition for his safety. The additional fact that some of the documents finally showed up in the hands of attorney Sugar and were used in the defense of the Stalinists leaves no doubt whatever that the burglary was carried out by such experts in burglary as the G.P.U. abounds in. In view of all the circumstances in the case it is not at all excluded that had Comrade Lovestone been at home while the burglary was committed more serious consequences might have resulted.

A striking chronological correlation exists between the trial of George Addes and the recently concluded trial, and the date of the robbery. In the case of the first trial, the defense had no case whatever and even no pretense of evidence. The expulsion of Addes took place on July 9th—eighth days before the burglary of Lovestone's home! In the recent case of the four suspended U.A.W. officers Mr. Sugar came forward with the legitimate and forged documents in their defense. This was after July 17th, when the burglary took place. Therefore there is a direct

(Continued on Page 3)

The 'Good Neighbor' Shows His Hand

Hull Note Reflects Real Aims of U. S. Imperialism

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE

(The following article is a translation from the original Spanish in which it was written by Bertram D. Wolfe in Mexico for one of Mexico's leading journals of opinion.—Editor.)

THERE is nothing so fragile as the kindness of the powerful who boast of being good as an act of grace. If the good conduct were the result of internal pressure of anti-imperialist elements (workers, farmers, liberals and progressives of other social groupings to whom imperialism represents a danger of internal reaction and war) and of external pressure on the part of a Mexico determined to resist openly any blow to its independence, and if this resistance were supported by the rest of Latin America, the kindness of the "good neighbor" would be less fragile. But the governments of Latin America have recently abandoned, with too great readiness, their reservations and skepticism towards the protestations of "good neighborliness." They have praised Roosevelt without criticism and without reserve. They have even printed postage stamps celebrating the United States Constitution and other institutions, going so far as adopting the fourth of July as a

legal holiday (as in Cuba)! They have used adulation and flattery where they ought to have employed far different methods.

A Free Hand To Reaction

Much more dangerous, however, has been the attempt of the American Stalinists to convince the working class of their own country that they ought to support, unconditionally and without criticism, the President of the United States. Thanks to this systematic demoralization of the independent opposition in the United States, Roosevelt has been able to decree the blockade of Spain while arms are sent freely to Hitler and Mussolini for their Spanish adventure. Thanks to these same false tactics, the "kindness" of the "good neighbor" in foreign policy has been determined, more and more, by the caprice and arbitrary will of the President of the United States. A capitalist and imperialist government does not cease being capitalist and imperialist just because the chief executive conducts it subtly and intelligently. Does not Roosevelt himself insist that the aim of all his policies is to preserve and foster the interests of capitalism? This is the reason of the fragility of the virtues in foreign affairs of

Three Expelled By Union Board

By GEORGE F. MILES

Detroit, Mich.—The International Executive Board of the United Automobile Workers Union, in session in Detroit last Saturday, concluded the trial of the suspended four international officers by finding them guilty as charged. The Board took a secret vote on the penalties and the result was expulsion from the Board and from membership in the union for Richard Frankenstein, Wyndham Mortimer and Ed Hall. Walter Wells received a three months suspension. George Addes, former secretary-treasurer of the union and one of the five originally suspended was tried separately some weeks ago and was expelled from the union.

It became known that while the vote on the expulsion of Mortimer and Hall followed union alignments with the six supporters of the defendants voting no, such was not the case in the vote on the expulsion of Frankenstein. In the latter case, the alignments were broken when two of the opposition joined forces with Martin administration supporters and only four voted in the negative. This fact has led to considerable speculation as to the two "unity" caucus supporters who voted for expulsion. Some believe that Walter Reuther took this occasion to show his real attitude to Frankenstein even while participating on the side of the Stalinists in this recent outbreak which resulted in the suspensions. As to the second "unity" man who failed to adhere to Stalinist caucus discipline

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the self-styled "good-neighbor" policy.

The recent note of Secretary of State Cordell Hull obliges us to examine once more the policy followed up to the present, to test standards, to change tactics; and those who have neither been taken in nor surrendered completely to easy and false dreams will have to increase their efforts, strike out with greater confidence in the struggle for their point of view, now altogether justified by events, and extend greatly their field of activity.

If there were any doubts of the foreign policy of the "good neighbor," the recent note of the American government on the agrarian debt, completely dispels them. Let us examine the note and see what it says:

Violation Of Mexican Sovereignty

1. Despite the verbal protestations to the contrary, the new note attempts to dictate internal Mexican policy, thus violating Mexican sovereignty. The rapidity with which a government debt is paid is a question to be determined entirely by that country itself. England owes much money to the American bankers since the World War. It has suspended payment and, for many years, has not said a word about resuming payment. The American government has taken upon itself this debt and has

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WORKERS AGE

Organ of the National Council, Independent Labor League of America, 131 West 33rd St., New York City.

Vol. 7 August 13, 1938 No. 33

MR. DE LOS RIOS DENIES

FROM Fernando de los Rios, Spanish Ambassador at Washington, we have received the following communication:

"In the number of the Workers Age of July 23, there was published an article entitled, 'Who Betrays Spain?'"

"As this fact is absolutely false, due that Mr. Prieto has not written me such letter, I shall appreciate it very much if you shall comply with my request of making this declaration public."

Mr. de los Rios, of course, knows best whether he received the letter in question or not, and we are therefore glad to publish his statement.

Labor and Taxation

THE hint given a few days ago by Roswell Magill, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, that the department was favorably considering a proposal for a reduction in individual income-tax exemptions,

It seems to us that the labor movement has shown altogether too little interest in the question of taxation and has accepted altogether too uncritically the pretensions of the Administration to a "social perspective" in its taxation policy.

And yet the Administration plumes itself on its taxation policy, on the strength of which it appeals for support among the workers!

Socialism and Peace

War and Fascism Are the Logic of Capitalism

By R. MASANI

(R. Masani is the chairman of the Congress Socialist Party of India, a socialist group in the Indian National Congress.—Editor.)

It would be futile to deny that developments abroad and in our country are provoking ever greater questioning of our socialist faith.

Essentially, what do we, revolutionary socialists, whether in India or abroad, stand for? I would pick out the abolition of private property and the evolution of a classless society as the essence of socialism.

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WORLD TODAY

By Lambda

London, July 13, 1938.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN DEVELOPMENTS

ON JULY 21, the Prague government will submit a carefully worked out minority statute to Parliament. The bill concerns itself primarily with local autonomy for communities and districts and goes no farther than that.

The British and French governments issued statements which had obviously been agreed upon in advance. Daladier was quite mild in tone, complimenting Hitler on his desire for "peace" and expressing the hope that France would not be put in the position where it would have to fulfill its obligations to Czechoslovakia.

The British and French governments divided the parts and, in fact, interchanged their traditional attitudes because the English government felt that the critical situation in Palestine was largely due to Italian and German agitation and that public opinion in England was becoming increasingly hostile to the foreign policy of Chamberlain, more so than the attitude of French public opinion to the foreign policy of Daladier.

TWO SIDELIGHTS ON SPAIN

THE News Chronicle, a liberal newspaper, recently published a detailed report of General von Reichenau on the Spanish civil war. The purpose of the report was to prove that the intervention of German troops in Spain did not lead to a weakening or diversion of the imperialist war aims of Germany.

THE present attitude of the Stalinists on the Spanish question is well illustrated in a recent speech of La Passonaria in which she assails those members of the C.P. who are opposed to the proposed amnesty of fascists by the Negrin government.

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LITVINOFF ON FOREIGN POLICY

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Illinois L.P. on the March

Lake County Labor Council Affiliates

Chicago, Ill. THE Lake County Central Labor Council meeting at Waukegan, Illinois, last week, voted affiliation and support of the Illinois Labor Party.

The action of the influential A. F. of L. central body of Lake County came on the heels of a year marked by two hard-fought strikes, involving severe clashes with political authorities over union actions and rights.

Further progress of the Labor Party, which is putting a full state ticket before the voters this Fall, came with the announcement that the Socialist Party had been persuaded to withdraw its ticket for 1938 in favor of the Labor Party's slate.

Two Bastille Days: 1936-38

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proceedings of the military review, Daladier inquired if any of the broadcasters were members of the Communist Party; for, if that were so, permission would not be granted.

In 1936, Daladier, Blum and Thorez marched at the head of the People's Front parade. "Up with Daladier," "Power to Daladier," were the slogans.

Decline—And New Hope The vigor and spirit of the masses packed into the Paris streets in 1936 presented a totally different picture from today's Bastille Day celebration and this contrast portends in some measure the effects of the Popular Front on the power, on the aspirations and hopes, of the working class.

NOTICE!

If the following number 33/38 appears on the address cover of your copy of the Age, your subscription expires with this issue. Please renew immediately.

AUGUST BOOK SALE

During August only we offer "GERMANY: World Empire or World Revolution" by Gunther Reimann (Formerly of editorial staff of Rote Fahne)

How the Hitler system works.—Secrets of the Nazi organization. Extent and activities of the underground labor movement

BOOKS

World Today News of the AGE

THE CHALLENGE OF HOUSING

Langdon W. Post, Farrar and Rinehart, New York, 1938. \$2.50.

PERHAPS no one field presents so starkly the New Deal's betrayal of its own ideologists and 1933 champions as does housing. Here there seemed to be a meeting of the minds between the economic royalists and the idealistic proponents of a New Society.

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"Of course, this policy is pursued only by the most reactionary section of the bourgeoisie, filled with unbounded hatred for the working class. But there are representatives and sections of the bourgeoisie who are of a different opinion, who, without sacrificing their class privileges are primarily concerned with their interests in the state, with their own national culture, and who look upon fascism as a short-lived phenomenon.

The disastrous results of trusting such absurdities even Litvinoff recognizes when he says: "All diplomatic activities of the western powers during the past five years have aimed at preventing any resistance to the aggressive policy of Germany and at granting all its demands and at satisfying its every whim, in constant fear of incurring its wrath."

Why did the Soviet Union sign the non-intervention pact? Litvinoff answers: "In the interest of international solidarity!"

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Henry Gets a Medal

By ROBERT MACKLIN

THE New York Post can hardly believe that Henry Ford's acceptance from Adolf Hitler of the Grand Cross of the German Eagle is anything more than an emotional outlet. It feels that such an action "invites the American people to believe that Ford is entirely out of sympathy with American ideals and institutions."

Who was it that said there are none so blind as our American liberals? Whoever he was, he sure knew his onions.

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PICNIC AND OUTING SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, ALL DAY TIBBETTS BROOK PARK, FIELD No. 11

AUGUST BOOK SALE During August only we offer "GERMANY: World Empire or World Revolution" by Gunther Reimann

BOWRY CREEK FARM SOUTH DURHAM, GREENE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Unions Break With Bridges

Four C.I.O. unions in Los Angeles, the I.L.G.W.U., the U.A.W., the United Rubber Workers, and the United Shoe Workers, have withdrawn from the Stalinist-dominated C.I.O. council of Harry Bridges, and declared their intention of setting up their own bona-fide council, the Los Angeles Trade Union Conference.

The unions charged that Bridges had nullified the principles of the C.I.O., thru the following practices:

Administering set-backs to the Pacific Coast C.I.O.; creation of an appointed bureaucracy; aiding Stalinist domination of the industrial union council thru fraud and votes of "paper" locals; acting as a dictator; aiding Stalinists to capture and disrupt the auto workers local at Long Beach; appointing Stalinists to executive positions without regard to the wishes of

Harry Bridges' Record

By THOMAS LAURENCE

(Thomas Laurence is business agent of the Los Angeles Joint Board of the I.L.G.W.U. This report first appeared in the July 1 issue of Justice, official paper of the I.L.G.W.U.—Editor.)

IT is now evident that the appointment of Harry Bridges as the C.I.O. Pacific Coast regional director was a mistake. Factiona-

the rank and file, or the ability of the individual; catering to the factional interests of Stalinism at the expense of the C.I.O. movement; calling a state convention without consultation.

The new Los Angeles Trade Union Conference declared for:

Labor solidarity of employed and unemployed and all labor organizations, including the A. F. of L.

lism in his own Maritime Federation has increased and intensified. Some of the unions are seeking reaffiliation with the A.F. of L.

Slanders Against The I.L.G.W.U.

Bridges, in San Francisco, openly accused the I.L.G.W.U. of sabotaging the C.I.O. How a union, whose president was among the initiators of the C.I.O. movement, and which has donated more than \$400,000 to the cause, would want to sabotage it, is hard to explain.

On the Pacific coast, in the city of Los Angeles, the I.L.G.W.U. gave both aid and direction to the formation of the first C.I.O. unions. It made donations to C.I.O. unions amounting to thousands of dollars and donated the use of its headquarters without charge to every union that asked for it. Bill Busick, as organizer for the I.L.G.W.U., took time from his own duties and gave invaluable aid in forming C.I.O. unions in auto, steel and rubber. He was a leader in the Douglas Aircraft sit-down strike,

is to conceal this difference, to force the Mexican government to forget that it came to power as the result of a revolution and that it has certain revolutionary duties.

Pity The Poor Trusts!

4. There is an amusing touch to the Hull document—unconscious irony, no doubt. We read:

"Just as within our own borders we strive to prevent the exploitation of debtors by powerful creditors, so are we justified in striving to prevent unfair and oppressive treatment of our people in other countries."

But the big capitalists who invested money in semi-colonial lands are no such "poor debtors"; they are the very powerful creditors. The "poor debtors" who need protection against exploitation and against forced payment by powerful creditors, are precisely countries like Mexico. How funny is the role of the "good neighbor" when he disguises himself as the poor exploited debtor! This unconscious irony implies the open return to the policy of "dollar diplomacy," to the policy of the State Department forcing payments to investing capitalists in semi-colonial lands. And how arrogant is the expression: "We urge that others follow the policy of fair dealing and fair play." The earlier administrations of the "bad neighbor" and the most open imperialistic policy never used more insolent language.

Finally, there are certain phrases in the note about the interest of Mexico in being a "good neighbor" as well, from the standpoint of its own future. Since the United States is preparing for another world war, the business of being a "good neighbor" implies for Mexico the danger of being tied to the chariot of its powerful imperialist neighbor.

The anti-imperialist struggle can no longer depend, if it ever could, on adulation and flattery of Roosevelt. This tactic has failed lamentably with the recent note. Nor can those Mexicans who love their independence expect any effective aid—if ever there has been any effective aid from such sources—from elements who do not wish to preserve their independence in relation to Roosevelt and the capitalist government of the United States. Effective aid can be secured only from the independent class action of the workers in the United States and from those elements who are able to exercise pressure on the Roosevelt Administration to force it to follow a policy which may somewhat deserve the name of "good neighbor." And Mexico must seek the support of all of Hispanic America.

was arrested and stood trial with the strikers.

We have had delegates from the I.L.G.W.U. to the C.I.O. since the days when it consisted of a small organizing committee. We have followed closely every step in its advancement from an organizing committee to a city-wide Industrial Council. We have participated in all of its activities, taken part in every election. We have had members on the first unemployed committee set up by the Council and also members on the legislative committee, and, while we are accused of sabotage, let us remind Brother Bridges that we are one of the few unions in the Los Angeles Industrial Council which are still paying per capita tax, and we have done so consistently since the beginning.

When a mass meeting for the Ford strikers was organized, it was the manager of our Joint Board, Brother Lutsky, who advanced the money for rental of a large auditorium. It was largely thru the efforts of Brother Lutsky that a suitable unemployment program was adopted by the Council. How Bridges can reconcile these acts with his charge of sabotage is hard for us to understand.

It is unwarranted attacks of this nature that destroy the harmony and unity within the ranks of the trade-union movement.

Bridges' Record

Bridges was, in 1934, a militant rank-and-file leader, idolized by the whole Maritime Federation. The tactics of carrying out the line of a political organization with the aim of dominating and controlling the trade-union movement, however, has caused Bridges to stumble and founder from one blundering position to another.

In the last month, he condemned the Ford strikers for going out on strike when they actually were forced into that action or had to face complete surrender of everything they had gained. He it was who was booed by the Ford strikers and told by the chairman of the meeting that, had he known what he was going to say, he would never have allowed him to speak. He yanked the charter of the Office Workers Union of San Francisco because the communists had lost control. He gave them over to the jurisdiction of the Warehousemen's Union. As a result, practically the whole membership of that union rebelled against such bureaucratic action and joined the A.F. of L.

In his own union, Bridges has opposed the longshoremen of San Pedro when they tried to set up

FINE WORK!

LAST week, Pres. Green of the A. F. of L. broke in to the news with the following actions:

1. Released an attack on the National Labor Relations Board in terms generally used by reactionary manufacturers.

2. Gloated in the defeat of Maury Maverick, outstanding House liberal.

3. Chartered the company union at the Red River Lumber Co., in Westwood, Calif., which had been responsible for vigilante attacks on C.I.O. union members fighting a 17½% wage-cut.

A fine record for a "leader of labor"!

an Industrial Council. They now have to travel twenty miles to meetings of the L. A. Industrial Council. There are many C.I.O. unions in the harbor area, and the need to consolidate them led the longshoremen to raise the question of a San Pedro C.I.O. Industrial Council. They have been opposed because of the fear that Communist Party control in the Council would be jeopardized.

Almost every appointment made by Bridges has been either a communist or a communist sympathizer. He has used his own popularity and the prestige of his office to support every satellite organization of the Communist Party.

No man like Harry Bridges should have been appointed as regional director of the C.I.O. The Communist Party has used the advantage received by the appointment of Bridges to drive every union man who did not agree with their line from leadership.

Undermining L.N.P.L.

Labor's Non-Partisan League started six months ago but, due to the packing of the conference by the Communist Party for the purpose of turning Labor's Non-Partisan League into a "People's Front," the enthusiasm of hundreds of trade unionists very favorable to Labor's Non-Partisan League was cooled, and today its leadership consists, the main, of members of the Communist Party and its sympathizers. To every labor conference come these saviors of labor to capture and divide and divert its course to their own purposes and ends.

Bridges, of course, is aware of his falling popularity and prestige. This, therefore, necessitates the finding of some villain to account for the failure. Trotskyism is played out, so now the I.L.G.W.U. becomes a convenient target.

Everybody's All Agog...??

EVERYBODY'S all agog! to say nothing of abuzz!

It's that picnic, of course—that picnic and outing at Tibbetts Brook Park on Sunday, August 21.

And that picnic will go down in history for a baseball game of two world-famous teams—the "Rightist-Terrorists," also known as the "Diversionists," against the "Leftist-Wreckers," also known as the "Hyphenates."

Motley and murderous crews, these—so positively murderous that opposing pitchers have been known to cringe and quail in terror and fall on their knees, break down and . . . confess!?!?!?! "Hit and run," the "squeeze" and "stealing bases," are their stock in trade. The very "diamond" itself is not safe with them around.

And, to make this a real sporting event, none other than Yagoda-Yezhoff has been invited to serve

as umpire to see that "justice" and "fair-play" are observed!

In addition to this game of the century, there will be rowing, swimming and badminton for the "athletic" type; for the sissies, chess, checkers and tiddly-winks. For everybody, lots of sky, fleecy clouds, fresh air, green grass, group singing and music. If you lose your lunch-box, don't worry. There will be plenty of refreshments.

How to get there? Take the 241 St.-White Plains I.R.T. train to 238 Street. Then take the bus to the Park.

Who's running it? Who do you think? The New York organization of the Independent Labor League of America, of course.

Where can you get tickets? At 131 West 33rd Street, on the seventh floor.

And don't delay—get them now!

Mexico's 'Good Neighbor'

(Continued from Page 1)

paid the bankers. But it has not dared to read England any lectures on "international law," nor to propose arbitration on the conditions or terms of payment. Why this difference in attitude? Can it be the closeness of the "good neighbor" to Mexico? Or the size of the British fleet?

2. The United States denies the Mexican government the right to expropriate land without compensation. (The note mentions at least three times, the "universally recognized principle of compensation.")

Here the observation must be made that this "principle" is not so universally recognized. The French Revolution confiscated the large estates of the feudal lords without any compensation whatsoever. The Protestant countries during the Reformation confiscated the estates and even the moveable chattels of the clergy, without compensation. The United States government itself confiscated a great deal of property of Englishmen or of Americans loyal to England during the Revolution of 1776. And, during and after the Civil War of 1861-1865, it confiscated without compensation the property in slaves of the landowners of the South. It also repudiated and prohibited the payment of debts incurred by the rebellious states and by the Confederate government, a very large sum, indeed, borrowed from the Southerners and from foreigners, especially the English. Finally, the Russian Revolution confiscated, without any compensation whatsoever, the property of both nationals and foreigners.

In the administrations of Hoover, Coolidge and Harding, when the neighbor did not pretend to be "good," the same claims were made on Russia. But now, Roosevelt has recognized the Soviet Union without insisting upon compensation for American citizens who had properties in old Russia. Why is a difference made in the case of Mexico? Can it be another symptom of the closeness of the "good neighbor"? Or is it the size of the Red Army? Or was it the result of the pressure exercised by the working-class movement of the United States and by the Communist Party before the disastrous tactics of the "Democratic and the Popular Front" set in, when it still pursued independent class tactics?

Lesson Of History

3. The historic truth on the question of expropriation with or without compensation, is very different from that which is insisted upon in the note of the "good neighbor." There are expropriations "at retail"

on the part of conservative governments in normal times; and there are expropriations "at wholesale" on the part of revolutionary governments, that is, governments which have come to power as a result of a recent revolution. Now, then, the principles "universally recognized" or practised in the second case, differ entirely from the principles "universally recognized" or practised in the first case. Revolutionary law is always founded on the recognition of the fact that the prevailing property system itself is based on legalized injustice. Therefore, a government which has come to power as a result of revolution is in duty bound not to recognize the principle of compensation. For such compensation does not do away with injustice; it simply changes its form. It would be nothing more than a transformation of the unjust wealth and power of exploitation from the form of real property to the form of bonds or cash. The ruling class can thus continue ruling and exploiting by converting itself into a moneyed class.

When it is a question of a secondary need of a conservative government (building, bridges, roads, harbors, arsenals, irrigation, slum clearance, soil reclamation), then compensation is the normal thing. But, when it is a question of a system of property whose very basis has been challenged by the people (as in the case of the large estates in Mexico, slavery in the United States, capital in Russia, the property of the clergy during the Protestant Reformation), in all such cases confiscation without compensation is the normal thing, and compensation, far from being a principle, represents the exception—whether because of the betrayal of a so-called revolutionary government, or as a special tactic of the revolution for the purpose of buying some of its enemies or for the purpose of facilitating a somewhat less violent transition when the opposing forces are still too strong for elimination at one blow. Thus, the period of open struggle can be somewhat abbreviated, but the aim remains the confiscation of the property in question. The "principle" of compensation, as a principle, has no validity here. In short, the "principle" of compensation is a recognized one when we are dealing with expropriation "at retail" within a property system that has not itself been challenged. The principle of expropriation without compensation is a recognized one when we are dealing with expropriation "at wholesale," involving a change in the very property system itself. The aim of the recent note of the "good neighbor"