

NEXT WEEK:
THE CONVENTION OF
THE T.W.O.C.

Workers Age

Weekly Paper of the Independent Labor League of America

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5 CENTS

The Workers Age Is in Danger!

READERS and Friends of the Workers Age:

The thin sheet in your hands is what we are reduced to by lack of funds. If you—you who are reading these lines—do not personally respond with help today, the next issue of the Age may not appear at all.

We do not often appeal to the readers of our paper for help. Year in, year out, despite the very limited resources of our members, despite strikes and unemployment and hard times, for ten years this paper has appeared and carried on its valiant fight.

But now the paper is in danger. If you believe in the causes we serve, we have the right to ask your generous and substantial help.

Summer is always a difficult time for a labor paper with no ads, no angels, and no affluent backers. But this Summer is especially critical for us. We have assumed a heavy burden of refugee aid. We have had to. There was Germany, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia and now Spain. We recently contributed to the building of an International Workers Front Against War and an International Revolutionary Marxist Center. Already, "democratic" France has responded by driving the new center underground and hounding its General Secretary out of the land. Now, as never before, in this hour of Stalinist and social-democratic national-chauvinism, war-mongering and betrayal, now as never before is international solidarity necessary and precious. We simply had to help and must continue to help the revolutionary refugees in their time of need. Our organization has contributed more funds per capita, more aid in proportion to its size, than any other organization in this country or in the world. We are not ashamed of having "overspent" or "miscalculated" in such a cause.

But the very existence of our paper is in danger, and we have to appeal to you for help, substantial, generous, unstinting help, to carry us over the most critical Summer in our existence. If you respond now, as soon as you finish this appeal, and respond to the limit of your ability, this paper, which we venture to believe has become precious to you because of its honesty, clarity and valor, because of its freedom from sectarian dogma and taint of totalitarianism, because of the battles it fights (so often alone) and the causes it serves—this paper, with your help, need not miss an issue. But the number of issues that appear this Summer depends on the promptness and generosity of your response.

If 100 of our readers respond today with \$25 each, we will not miss a single number this Summer. For many of our readers, \$25 is a whole week's wage and more. If 250 of you will contribute \$10 each, the result will be the same—the voice of the Workers Age will not be choked off for a single week. Those who cannot afford to send even

Only Your Immediate Aid Can Save It!

\$10 at once may be able to do their part by payment in weekly instalments, a dollar a week for each of the twelve most difficult Summer weeks. Or perhaps you can make a loan of \$25 and pay it off in weekly instalments. Will you mail a dollar now, if you cannot afford more, together with a pledge to sustain the Age during the Summer by a weekly contribution? We will count on your pledge, try to borrow against it, show the printer your promise (we are heavily in debt to him) and continue to appear each week on time. But if you do not fulfill that pledge, the paper will not appear.

That is the situation: the fate of your paper is in your hands. We cannot continue without your help. And what a time for the voice of the Age to be stilled—even for a week!

This Summer may prove as critical as the Summer of 1914. The Workers Age is alone in America in carrying on a struggle against war that is at once broad and realistic and revolutionary. It is alone in providing an open, uncensored forum for all factions of the labor and radical movement. It is alone in its systematic, sound exposure of every step of the Administration to involve this country in war, alone in fighting the Administration in such a way as not to play into the hands of its reactionary opponents, alone in raising the problems of revolutionary socialist reunification in a world of splits and splinters and sectarian division, alone in carrying on a fight against totalitarianism of the fascist, Stalinist and militarist varieties, without ever confusing them in nature or significance, alone in presenting an analysis of the decisive events in the world of economics, politics, culture and international intrigue, an analysis that is realistic, dependable, free from demagoguery and dogma.

But we do not have to tell you why you have bought, why you have subscribed to, why you read the Workers Age. We are sure that you realize as we do the importance of this one clear, honest and courageous voice in a time of disintegration, cowardice, treachery and confusion. Neither you nor we, perhaps, fully realize how much more hopeless the present time would be if its voice were stilled and its place left vacant. You will not regret, either now or in the future, having pinched a little more this Summer, having gone without one thing or another in order that this land and time should not miss the Workers Age. Tomorrow, you will be prouder than you think, to remember that you became one of its supporters and sustainers in its hour of critical need, far prouder than if you had spent that \$25 or \$10 or whatever it is, in any other way.

Next week, and in the succeeding difficult Summer weeks, if the Age does not appear, or comes out as a single sheet, with part of its precious space taken up with further appeals for help, you will know that it is because you did not act in time, did not give all you could, did not respond at once and generously to this appeal.

Reader: it depends on you, on you and those you personally will induce to subscribe and contribute, whether we will appear next week and all the critical Summer weeks.

Send what you can today!

Collect what you can tomorrow!

Do not wait till it mounts up to a substantial sum. A dollar, five dollars, a collection gathered together in nickels, dimes and quarters in your shop or home, anything that you can spare or any pledge that we can depend upon will help to sustain and secure the appearance of the Workers Age.

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW, TODAY!

Fill in one or more of the blank spaces below and mail at once to:

WORKERS AGE
131 West 33rd St.
New York City

I want the Workers Age to continue. I do not want it to skip a single issue. I am doing my part by enclosing herewith _____ dollars.

You can also count on my sending you _____ dollars on Saturday of each week for the next _____ weeks.

I am also enclosing _____ dollars collected from my friends and _____ dollars to be applied to subscriptions for the following (enclose name and addresses of subscribers).

Yours for the Workers Age,

Name _____

Address _____

You may publish (may not publish) my name in connection with this donation.

We Need Your Help Now, Without Delay!

Madden Flays Vicious Acts Of Employers

Washington, D. C.

J. Warren Madden, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, last week advised Congress that "certain particularly vicious practices still persist in considerable measure to obstruct the exercise of the right of organization and collective bargaining."

He appeared before the Senate Labor Committee considering a bill by Senator LaFollette to outlaw industrial employment of labor spies and strike-breakers and forbid employers to use armed guards outside their premises or to possess or use shotguns, machine guns and gas.

The Wagner labor-relations act, Madden testified in endorsing the LaFollette bill, is not adequate to cope with the vicious practices he referred to.

"The proposed legislation," he said, "would meet certain of these deficiencies of the Wagner Act and would more effectively implement the federal policy which it embodies."

Madden submitted a list of nearly fifty Board decisions in which, he said, the employer "was found to have engaged in espionage upon union activities."

"The employers implicated included such leaders of American corporate enterprise," he said, "as Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, Hearst Publications, Inc., Pennsylvania Greyhound Lines, Remington Rand, Inc., Consolidated Edison Company, Montgomery Ward and Co., Yale and Towne Manufacturing Company and Brown Shoe Company."

The Labor Board chairman said the demoralizing effects of the activities of labor spies could hardly be exaggerated.

He declared the LaFollette bill was designed to penalize employment of fake millwrights hired as strike-breakers in labor disputes. Madden pointed out that crews of millwrights were sent into struck plants ostensibly to dismantle the establishment with the purpose of making strikers believe their jobs were in jeopardy unless they returned to work.

Madden also assailed use of company police to harass strikers off the employer's premises.

"The assumption by private em-

Royalty Here to Push War Alliance

Frank Howard's Weekly Washington Letter

By FRANK HOWARD

Washington, D. C.

THE frankest admission as to the real purpose of the visit of the King and Queen, which will be over by the time this issue of the Age reaches most readers, is contained in a column by Frederic William Wile in the arch-Republican Washington Star. Mr. Wile has been a consistent critic of the New Deal but not of its foreign policy. I quote from the column: "This week's first visit of reigning British sovereigns to the United States is an international event of supreme magnitude. Official disavowals of its political importance are moonshine. Both the London Foreign Office and the Washington State Department which arranged it, know that the short sojourn of the King and Queen on American soil is one of the momentous things in English-speaking history. . . . It is as a demonstration of 'parallel purpose' in the world that the royal visit is to be viewed. . . . The purposes of the United States and Great Britain are parallel in the Far East. . . . British and American minds meet in hostility to the anti-democratic Nazi and fascist ideologies. The purposes of the two great English-speaking commonwealths are parallel with respect to world peace and all therewith."

players of the public function of maintaining law and order has led to terrorization of whole communities, disgraceful violence and the complete denial of fundamental civil liberties," he said.

Madden referred again to Republic Steel and the Little Steel strike of 1937 in offering an illustration of the use of munitions in labor disputes. He declared that the LaFollette bill did not leave the employer at the mercy of attackers.

"All participants," he said, "in a labor dispute are to be deprived of these weapons."

It is legally difficult, he said, to apply the Wagner Act against agencies which make a business of supplying spies, strike-breakers, armed guards and munitions in industrial warfare.

The LaFollette bill, he noted, would authorize the imposition of criminal penalties and the issuance of injunctions against such agencies.

War Poll Urged to Aid Peace Fight

Washington, D. C.

A national referendum whereby the people would themselves vote to go to war is "only one part of a whole legislative and educational pattern" designed to keep America at peace, Miss Dorothy Detzer, executive secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee recently.

"By itself it could have little value," she said. "But as a single part of a whole peace pattern, it has tremendous value and can help to create the direction and trend of American foreign policy."

Florence Brewer Broeckel, associate secretary of the National Council for Prevention of War, argued that the war referendum would be extension of the principles of democracy.

Senator Bone, of Washington, joined Senators LaFollette, Nye and Capper in support of the referendum.

Lynch Law Rules the South

New York City.

THE hot-iron torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and respected citizen of Canton, Mississippi, on May 8, was revealed here last week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, following receipt of an investigator's report.

According to the investigator's report, Rodgers, a deacon in Canton's Mt. Zion Baptist Church, was shot, tortured with hot irons, brutally cut, and his body thrown into the Pearl River by a foreman of a local lumber mill where he was employed. He was lynched, the report said, because he refused to accept a weekly deduction of \$5.50 from his wages in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy.

The lynching represents the fifth in the United States for 1939 and the first in Mississippi this year. It followed by nine months the lynching of Claude Banks, in the same town, July 21, 1938. Banks was the innocent victim of a white mob which was seeking suspects in the killing of a white man.

The lynching of Rodgers has

brought no arrests, no publicity from the newspapers, and an order from town officials advising local citizens to refrain from discussing the crime, despite the fact that the mill worker's body has been recovered from the river and given a decent burial. The text of the investigator's report follows:

"On the eighth of May at Canton, Miss., a Negro named Joe Rodgers was lynched. He was a workman at a lumber company, and was notified by his foreman that he had to live in the mill quarters. He refused to obey these orders. However, the company deducted from his weekly wages the sum of \$5.50 for rent just as if he were living in the mill quarters. This Rodgers protested and asked for his full payment. His foreman struck him with a shovel and Rodgers struck him back with one, whereupon he was captured, tied hand and foot, shot, tortured with red-hot irons and cut and the body thrown into the Pearl River.

"The body was recovered from the river three days later and held in the funeral parlors of People's Funeral Home at Canton, Miss. He was later buried at Forest, Miss.

"The Life More Abundant"

Evicted from a \$12-a-month apartment at 13 Essex St. because the rent was seventeen days overdue, Mrs. Dave Berkowitz stood guard over her few pieces of furniture today while her husband, an unemployed taxi driver, sought help at home-relief headquarters.

"When they were put out yesterday, Mrs. Berkowitz placed their children, Joan, 3 years, and Frieda, 4 months, with friends, and spent the night on the sidewalk.

"She explained today that they had had more furniture, but three months ago when they were evicted from another apartment on Ave. B her husband sold everything but bare essentials to raise money for rent on another place."

—New York World-Telegram, June 1, 1939.

This, in the seventh year of the New Deal, while relief is being slashed and armaments boosted to the skies!

Drastic Cuts Peril N. Y. School System

Budget Slashes Eliminate Vital Services

New York City.

To accommodate the New York school system to drastic cuts in the budget, 984 elementary school teachers will be dismissed, all kindergarten classes, evening schools and community centers in the city will be abolished and day high-school activities seriously curtailed, the Board of Education announced last week. This program of all-around reduction is made necessary, the Board pointed out, by the \$5,000,000 cut in state aid resulting from the Republican State Legislature's slash of Governor Lehman's budget and from a \$3,000,000 cut in the city budget made by the Board of Estimate. The constitutionality of the State Legislature's action is now before the courts.

The closing down of the community centers and classes for adults will affect over 100,000 students. Play schools for the care of children during the day will most likely also be abandoned, as well as after-school athletics centers and nature-education classes.

The size of classes, which the Board characterized as already too great, will be increased, and ten high-school annexes will be eliminated.

PHILADELPHIA

Jay Lovestone

will discuss

"The European Situation and the Working Class Movement"

when he speaks on

TOMORROW'S WAR

at

Labor Institute Hall

810 Locust Street

Friday, June 16,

8:30 P. M.

Independent Labor League of America, Philadelphia Branch,

810 Locust Street

General Admission: 25c

ated. A cut of \$317,000 has been made in the appropriation for school supplies and \$500,000 from the fund set aside for repairs.

These slashes, the first curtailment of such character in the entire history of public education in this city, have already aroused a wide protest movement among all sections of the population. Parents organizations, teachers and students groups as well as civic bodies of all sorts have joined in a plea for the restoration of the cuts in the educational budget.

There are indications that an effort may be made to meet the situation by a horizontal slash of teachers' salaries, in other words, by making the teachers bear the burdens of "economy."

High Court Hits Hague

Washington, D. C.

The United States Supreme Court decided last week that Mayor Frank Hague and the municipal authorities of Jersey City, N. J., contravened constitutional rights when they enacted and enforced certain ordinances restricting the right of free speech, press and assembly. The case involved the C.I.O. and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The decision means that Jersey City can no longer forbid anyone to meet in the streets or parks or to distribute handbills or to prescribe any prior conditions for meetings or to force people to obtain permits for such meetings. Neither have the police the right of expelling or "confining" undesirable persons without arrest.

The action of the Supreme Court in upholding the rights of free speech, press and assembly against the oppressions of local tyrants such as Mayor Hague is of special significance at this time when the menace of authoritarianism is growing on every side.

The decision of the high court was five to two, Justices Frankfurter and Douglas not participating.

