

KENTUCKY MINERS ON STRIKE!

SOUTHERN WORKER



Issued Weekly by Communist Party of U. S. A.

Volume 2, Number 21

Chattanooga, Tenn., January 9, 1932

2 Cents a Copy

Darrow Is Out of Scottsboro Case

FORCE SENATE COMMITTEE TO HEAR WANTS OF UNEMPLOYED

WORKERS WILL RALLY BEHIND DEMANDS FEB. 4

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Breaking through efforts to stop them from presenting the demands of the 12,000 unemployed, a committee elected by the 1,579 Hunger Marchers to Washington placed its demands before the Senate Committee on Unemployment.

Herbert Benjamin, an spokesman for the committee, presented the argument for the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill adopted by the National Hunger Marchers, which included immediate winter relief and unemployment insurance.

Expresses A. F. of L.

In strong terms, Benjamin denounced the American Federation of Labor leaders who are helping the government in its fight against the mighty mass demand for unemployment insurance at the expense of the capitalist class. Benjamin particularly denounced Edward F. McGrady, notorious New York politician and strike-breaker, who for years has been an organizer for the A. F. of L.

In a long document that he read, Benjamin indicted the capitalist system, showing its responsibility for the mass unemployment with its misery, degradation, disease and death for millions of working class men, women and children.

The senators didn't like it when they heard that the capitalist efforts to smash the hunger march failed because of the mass support of the march.

Prepares for Feb. 4th.

Around the demand for immediate cash relief and unemployment insurance there is being organized a nation-wide series of demonstrations for February 4th, which is National Unemployment Insurance Day.

Special plans are being forward in the Southern industrial centers and in many farming sections for demonstrations that will connect up the national demands with local demands that are being formulated by Unemployed Committees of Action and Unemployed Councils.

Call Kentucky Miners Relief Conference In Detroit, January 24th

DETROIT, Mich.—A Michigan conference under the International Workers' Aid was held here January 24th to raise relief for the striking Kentucky miners. A large delegation representing many workers' organizations and unemployed councils attended and planned a big campaign to raise funds for relief.

Terror, Eviction, Slander Fail To Prevent Kentucky Mine Strike

CONFERENCE TO SPREAD STRIKE ON JANUARY 17

By FRANK BORICH

On the eve of the historic strike of the Kentucky miners against starvation and terror, the coal operators are making desperate efforts to prevent the strike. Terror, frame-ups, evictions, threats—everything is in full swing. All sorts of leaflets, raising the usual cry against "reds," signed by all kinds of "patriotic" organizations, are being distributed in tens of thousands appealing to the miners "to ignore the strike call and remain on their jobs."

The newspapers, especially "The Sun," printed in Pineville, are urging open violence against the National Miners' Union and its leaders. The "Sun" of December 31 writes editorially:

"A few vicious communists have decreed that our coal mines shall shut down January 1, and that business operations dependent on the coal industry will have to seek some other source of income. We sit apinely by and permit these foreign agitators, agents of the Russian government, to stifle our little remaining business. Our political leaders and some of our business men, fearful that they may lose a few votes or a few dollars, sit by and permit these interlopers to cut off the very life of industry. . . . It is time for Pineville to arise and say to these communists that we do not want them in our midst."

The miners, however, pay very little attention to this slanderous propaganda of the coal operators. They know that they were the ones to declare the strike and carry on preparations for it. They look upon the intensified terror as something usual in the Kentucky coal fields and calmly continue with their work.

The miners have completed strike preparations in Eastern Kentucky. The close check-up shows that 85 mines, employing approximately 18,000 miners, will be shut down on the first day of the strike. In fact some of the mines struck already. The mass meetings are something unparalleled in any of the industries. No miner goes to work on a day the meetings are scheduled. Men, women and children, Negro and white, attend the meetings in every mining camp.

Soup kitchens are being built in every mine. Small business men are (Continued on Last Page)

Rush Food, Clothing and Money Donations to Kentucky Strikers

The Kentucky miners are on strike—fighting against starvation and terror. Their success depends on the relief sent them. If you want to help the Kentucky miners win, rush food and clothing to the Workers' International Relief Warehouse, 145 Pine Street, Pineville, Kentucky. Send all funds to the Workers' International Relief, 18 W. 21st street, New York City.

SPREAD STRIKE AS THUGS RAID UNION CENTER

PINEVILLE, Ky.—Thousands of miners came out on strike January 1st in response to the call of the convention of December 13 held under the leadership of the National Miners' Union. Great enthusiasm marked the beginning of the decisive struggle to the bitter starvation and thug rule. The strike spread to Tennessee the first day and it is confidently expected that within a few days not less than 18,000 miners will be out in defiance of the biggest corporations in the United States.

Campaign of Lies

The beginning of the strike was accompanied by a planned campaign of lies in the capitalist press: the game being to try to make it appear that very few responded to the strike call.

When, on Monday, January 2, it was apparent that the strike was spreading and would soon involve the greater part of Barren county, the center of the terror, the coal thugs of Bell county raided the district center of the National Miners' Union here in Pineville, arresting a number of active leaders, and a group of newspaper people. Those arrested in Monday's raid are Ann Barton, newspaper writer; Vern Smith, journalist; Vincent Komarovich, N. M. U. organizer; Clara Michelsohn, relief worker; Mrs. Joe Weiber, John Harvey, Julia Parker and Margaret Fontaine. All are held in jail at this writing, most of them charged with criminal syndicalism.

Search for Strike Leaders

The raid on the headquarters failed to net all the strike leaders, as some of them were in the field at the time of the raid. They are being protected by the striking miners who are determined that the gun-thugs shall not throw them in prison or "take them for a ride." The rank and file strike committee, consisting of a large number of miners is leading the strike, under the direction of district and national leaders of the N. M. U.

Because of the raid no complete figures are at hand of the actual number of strikers, but reports of additional numbers walking out are steadily coming in, which shows that the mine fields are gradually being paralyzed by strike action.

Need Mass Support to Win

This struggle against the most powerful capitalists of America, Mon-

BOYS DENOUNCE N. A. A. C. P.; WANT REAL DEFENSE

Clarence Darrow withdrew from the Scottsboro case after refusing to cooperate with attorneys for the International Labor Defense and after demanding that these lawyers, chosen by the eight Negro boys, should withdraw from the appeal. It was announced today by the New York office of the International Labor Defense.

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has attempted to get Darrow and Hays into the case under false pretenses," it was stated by George Maurer, assistant secretary of the International Labor Defense. "The N. A. A. C. P. has been saying the I. L. D. has been 'rotted' from the defense because the plea of our attorney, George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga, Tenn., were 'defective' and because 'he is not attorney on record in the case.'"

Demand Honest Defense

These statements are absolutely false. All the boys and all their parents and next of kin signed statements last May avowing that they want Mr. Chamlee and the I. L. D. to defend them on the I. L. D. policy of an energetic legal and public defense, based on the grounds that they are innocent of the rape with which they are charged. All the boys, all their parents and next of kin signed similar statements again on December 27, declaring that they want an I. L. D. defense and do not want the cowardly defense policy of the N. A. A. C. P.

Rejects Traitor Moves

"The boys do not want the N. A. A. C. P. because they declare that this organization betrayed them. The lawyer, Stephen Ruddy of Chattanooga, whom the N. A. A. C. P. now claims to have retained originally in the case, not only urged the boys to (Continued on Page 2)

MORE SOUTHERN RAILROADS CUT WORKERS WAGES

While the trade union officials of the brotherhoods and the American Federation of Labor are plotting to put over a general nation-wide wage cut the Southern railroads are already slashing wages right and left. The Central of Georgia has already cut wages of all workers.

On January 1st the Atlantic Coast Line cut wages 10 per cent. Also on the same date a similar wage cut went into effect on the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway. On the same day the Louisville and Nashville slashed pay 10 per cent.

Organize Action Committee

Throughout the whole country preparations are going on to resist the wage-cuts on the railroads. The Railroad Workers Industrial League is organizing thousands of railroad workers for the fight.

Throughout the South the workers in all roadhouses, on all sections, on all crews, should set up rank and file Committees of Action, consisting of organized and unorganized, employed and unemployed, Negro and white, to prepare to resist the wage cuts by a mass strike.

HOOVER'S POPULARITY

President Hoover asked Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, to lend him a nickel, as he hadn't any small change and wanted to call up a friend. Mellon loaned him a dime and told him to call all his friends.

gun, Rockefeller, Ford, Smith, directly affects the whole working class, inasmuch as a victory will mean the defeat of the most vicious terror at present raging in this country, while a defeat will mean that the same terror will spread to other mining sections and other industries.

Relief is most urgently needed so that these embattled miners can carry on. The miners say they will fight to the limit if they get relief from the rest of the workers of the country.

Food and clothing is urgently needed. Rush it to the Workers' International Relief Warehouse, 145 Pine Street, Pineville, Ky. Collect money from working class organizations and individuals and send it immediately to Workers' International Relief, 18 W. 21st street, New York.

BOYS DENOUNCE N A A C P; WANT REAL DEFENSE

(Continued from Front Page)
plead guilty of a crime for which they are innocent, but also declined to go on record as attorneys for the defense. He said that he was appearing merely in an advisory capacity. He made no sincere effort to save the boys.

"The Scottsboro boys are so convinced that the tactics of the N. A. A. C. P. in this case have injured them and obstructed the defense policy of the International Labor Defense, that on December 28, they sent this telegram to Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays:

"We have been getting a lot of letters from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People telling us that you are going to defend us for the N. A. A. C. P. and we saw the same thing in the newspapers this morning. We have already got the International Labor Defense and jointly employed Mr. George W. Chandler of Chattanooga and some other lawyers who are helping Mr. Chandler and the I. L. D. We do not want you in some and fight the I. L. D. and make trouble for Mr. Chandler just to help the N. A. A. C. P. If you want to save us and help us get a new trial, please help the I. L. D. and Mr. Chandler. Our parents and kindfolk signed papers yesterday for Mr. Chandler to file in the Supreme Court that Mr. Chandler and the I. L. D. are retained by all of us to fight our case. These papers were filed in the Supreme Court of Alabama today."

All Night Conference

"On the basis of this request from the boys the International Labor Defense asked Mr. Darrow and Mr. Hays to co-operate in the defense with the I. L. D. After an all-night session with our lawyers they refused to do so. Mr. Darrow then withdrew from the case. This is nothing new. Mr. Darrow refused to represent the boys for the I. L. D. when asked last Spring to do so. Also in the spring and again in July the N. A. A. C. P. recorded themselves as unwilling to co-operate. Their entire policy has been not to help save the boys from the electric chair, but to fight the International Labor Defense as a matter of what cost to the innocent prisoners in Kilby prison.

Chandler Issues Statement

Chandler made the following statement concerning the withdrawal of the N. A. A. C. P. attorneys:

"The defendants, the parents, and the I. L. D. have retained me as counsel. The parents and their kin further filed with Judge Hawkins a sworn petition protesting against any connections of the N. A. A. C. P. with the case. Although we have many associates, George Chandler, Jr., Irving Schwab, Joseph Brodsky, Carol King and Allen Taub, we would welcome the entrance of any reputable attorney as the basis of complete co-operation. I feel I cannot break faith with my clients to the extent of involving the co-operation of any one entering the case as a representative of the N. A. A. C. P. This position is in keeping with the demands of the boys, their parents, and their kin."

Must Save Boys

Lowell Washfield, southern representative of the I. L. D., declared today: "We have no interest other than saving from the electric chair eight innocent Negro boys. We, and the defendants cannot consider the entrance into the case of any organization such as the N. A. A. C. P., whose leaders are given solely to obstruction and attacks and not to assistance in the defense. We asked Darrow and Hays to work with us in a united effort to free the boys. We request after

URGE INCREASE OF ACTIVITY IN TEXTILE SOUTH

OLNEYVILLE, E. I.—Much more attention to the textile centers of the South and immediate increase in activity is part of the program of action decided upon at the meeting of the National Executive Board of the National Textile Workers Union held on December 26th.

See Big Strike Struggles

Reviewing the situation in the entire textile industry the board pointed out that the crisis is still increasing and that wage cuts are rife, that unemployment grows and speeding-up of workers is awful. Perspectives for the textile industry indicate increasing strike struggles, which must be prepared for at once.

See New Wars in the South

Much attention was devoted to the question of the South. It was generally recognized that the movement is lagging behind; that in the masses in the Southern textile industries are willing to struggle against wage cuts, unemployment and speed-up but they have had no effective lead in preparing struggles. The providing of effective leadership is one of many necessities in the South. The organizations in Charlotte, Danville, Greenville, Burlington and Lynchburg must be strengthened and local leadership developed.

A three-months plan of work was adopted during which time intensive activity in building the union and preparation for the Third National Convention will be carried on.

FEWER STEEL WORKERS

GADSDEN, Ala.—The Gulf States Steel company resumes operations here Monday with reduced forces. The local plant of the Goodyear Tire Company also announces that it will resume operations, but no statement is made regarding the number of workers to be employed.

RAISE RATES, CUT WAGES

ATLANTA, Ga.—A fifteen percent increase in intrastate freight rates has been granted by the state public service commission, in accordance with the ruling of the interstate commerce commission. The Central of Georgia and other roads recently cut wages.

A long conference no agreement could be reached.

Visit Key Wright in Jail

Chandler and Irving Schwab, labor defense attorneys of New York saw yesterday in the Birmingham county jail, the sixth Scottsboro boy, Roy Wright, 14 years old, who is held pending retrial after jury disagreement in his case. They will today attempt to secure his release thru habeas corpus proceedings.

According to press dispatches from Birmingham, Darrow did not visit the boys, even Roy. He refused to see Mrs. Montgomery, mother of Glen Montgomery, or Mrs. McLeroy, aunt of Eugene Williams, because, he admitted to the I. L. D. representative, he was "afraid they will ask me to come in and help the I. L. D. save the boys."

Key Wants I. L. D.

Key Wright stated in jail today: "We have Chandler and the I. L. D. If they can't save us Darrow and the N. A. A. C. P. sure can't. I don't want Darrow. I am innocent. I don't want Bedden either. He's with the N. A. A. C. P."

As a result of the boys' signed statement and their telegram, Governor B. M. Miller has issued a public statement advising prison authorities "no longer to hinder I. L. D. attorneys from seeing defendants."

CZECH TOOL OF FRANCE PLOTS MURDER OF JAP

Carl Wasek, secretary of the Czechoslovakian Diplomatic Mission to Moscow, has been exposed as the one who directed the plot to murder the Japanese ambassador to the Soviet Union, in the hope of provoking a war against the Soviet Union. The government which Wasek represents is one of the puppet states of French imperialism in Eastern Europe. It is a certainty that Wasek received his instructions from the notorious renegade, Aristide Briand, who was exposed last year as one of the puppet masters of the wreckers and food poisoners and Mensheviks, yellow socialists, who were tried in Moscow.

Japan Also Involved

That Japan was also involved in the plot to kill its own ambassador is proved by the fact that the Japanese foreign office at Tokyo, while confirming the conspiracy to assassinate its ambassador, said "too much fuss is being made about a plot which has failed." Japan would be quite willing to have an ambassador killed if it could thereby provoke war against the workers' and peasants' government of the U. S. S. R.

Hallet Abend, in a dispatch to the New York Times, from Harbin, states that the main aim of the Japanese bandits in Manchuria is to make war against the Soviet Union. In this the United States government is involved as well as the government of Great Britain and the other imperialist powers, all of whom regard war as one of the ways out of the economic crisis.

Revolutionary Tide Rising

While Japanese troops occupy Chinkow, and proceed to consolidate its armed conquest of Manchuria, the tide of revolution in China is rising. The Chinese Red Army is gaining new territory and rallying new masses to the Chinese Soviets every day. Nine regiments have deserted the Nanking regime in the past few weeks and joined the Red Army. Industrial workers in the cities are striking in ever larger masses; more than 30,000 mill workers are on strike in Shanghai—thus is taking place unity of action between the city workers and the agrarian revolution, which challenges the power of all the imperialists.

Faced with the growing revolution Japan has appealed to the other imperialist powers, the United States, England, France, to invade China, and partition it as the Japs have seized Manchuria.

So clearly is the war in the far east directed against the Soviet Union and the Chinese revolution that every worker can see it and should fight against the war mongers.

Everywhere throughout the United States the workers and farmers must fight for the war funds to be used for unemployment relief, for farm relief, for food and famine relief in the South.

Demand that all armed forces be withdrawn from China and Manchuria.

Hands off the Chinese Soviets and Red Army!

Defend the Soviet Union!
Down with the war-mongers!

WAUKEGAN TANNERY STRIKE

WAUKEGAN, Ill.—Forty-eight workers, the total number employed in the tannery here are on strike against wage-cuts.

FAKERS FORCE PAY CUT

RAN FANCHICO, Cal.—The leaders of the shop crafts association committee on the Southern Pacific have put over a 15 per cent wage cut against 15,000 men.

LYNCH NEGRO WHO AVENGES DEAD BROTHER

SELMA, Ala.—Alabama closed the year as it began it, with a lynching. The victim was a Negro worker who was murdered by a posse headed by Sheriff M. C. Taylor of Dallas county.

The Negro was a worker named Agoo Parsons who, with his brother, was employed by the W. T. Smith Lumber Company at Chapman, Ala. The two brothers had a quarrel with a farmer who was trying to cheat them. A gun-thug named Dempsey Melton, who was a deputy-sheriff who was paid by the Smith Lumber company bonded in and, as soon as James Parsons objected to the company thug's remarks he was shot dead.

Before the gun-man could shoot and kill him, Agoo Parsons, seeing his brother dead, shot the deputy, and then fled.

The Selma police force and Dallas county sheriffs, most of whom are paid by the lumber mill exploiters, organized a posse and two hours later, found Agoo Parsons hiding in a warehouse. Heroically defending himself the last Agoo Parsons was finally shot and killed by the lynch mob.

Negro and white lumber workers must organize and fight for decent wages and working conditions and demand the firing of the deputized gun thugs in the pay of the lynch.

TWO CENTRALIA PRISONERS OUT AFTER 12 YEARS

SEATTLE Wash.—After years of campaigning for the release of the Centralia martyrs, Gov. Hartley has been forced to extend parole to two of them, Eugene Barnett and O. C. Eland. There are still four held in Walla Walla prison serving 25 to 40 years, because four American Legion members were killed when they formed a lynch mob and attacked the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union hall in Centralia, November 11, 1919.

One of the workers in the hall was brutally mutilated by the gang of Legionnaires after resistance had been overcome, and was lynched at night from the Chehalis river bridge. That was Wesley Everett. Thereafter, not the lynch mob, but a group of workers, some of whom were in the hall and some were not, were placed on trial. Eight were convicted, of whom one, Loren Roberts, was declared insane. However he was kept in prison like the rest. The trial was so notoriously unfair that nine of the jurors have since signed statements admitting that the men were not fairly convicted and some of the jurors admit they were terrified by the concentration of legionnaires and militia in the court house and did not dare to acquit. Their verdict of "second degree murder" was accompanied by a plea for mercy, and was only rendered after the judge had let it be understood that a very light sentence would be passed. The judge then disregarded his tacit bargain and gave the limit the law allows.

The campaign for release of the prisoners was badly mishandled by the I. W. W. defense committee, which at times split into two warring factions and was always fluctuating between a popular mass struggle and publicity campaign, and purely personal and legalistic appeals to the governor. After the International Labor Defense began to campaign, some results were achieved.

Two years ago, Roberts, who was

MANY PERISH IN BLACK BELT FLOOD DISASTER

Reports indicate that the most disastrous flood of all time has hit Tallahatchie, Quitman and Panola counties in Mississippi, as the Tallahatchie and Yazoo rivers are on a rampage. In spite of the mobilization of more than a thousand convicts, aided by thousands of Negro farm laborers, the levees are steadily crumbling and the waters reaching higher levels.

Refugees' Awful Suffering

The refugees of the flood, men, women and children, with packs hastily gathered together, are roaming the hill tops, watching the steadily rising waters. Many have been without food or drink for four days.

The number of dead, though undoubtedly great, is not known. Bodies are washed down toward the Yazoo in the swirling floods. Homes are wrecked, and washed like driftwood downstream, while thousands of livestock, pigs, cows and horses, are drowned.

Red Cross Bakery

Red Cross activity consists only of rescuing the slave drivers of the section, while they simply ignore the masses of farm tenants, croppers and farm laborers, and leave them without food, shelter or medical attention of any kind.

With the expenditure of a few hundred thousand dollars the dykes could be made safe and such disasters prevented. The government is not concerned about the masses of workers and farmers in these river valleys except to the extent that they can be exploited. Already the landholders, the money sharks and the timber trust have taken everything they can get, so they do not bother about the drowning of a few thousand poor workers and farmers.

Famine conditions are widespread and disease is rampant. Many families on hill tops have no light at night; when it grows dark they simply huddle together and remain that way until morning, when they can see how much higher the water has risen and watch in vain for rescue parties.

FEW SLAVES HIRED

ATLANTA, Ga.—The new million-dollar mill of the Clark Thread Co., which was advertised to employ a few thousand workers, is ready to open. Only a small staff is on the job now and it is announced that within the next sixty days 250 will be employed. This plant is owned by a Newark, N. J., concern. The Atlanta press calls this one sign of "returning prosperity." Raspberries!

FINALLY WOKED UP

An unemployed worker, along the road, carried a sign on his back: "Don't give me a lift; I voted for Hoover."

NEW MEXICO WAGE-CUT

TORRERO, N. Mex.—The American Metal company has cut wages 15 per cent. The Communist Party is fighting this wage cut.

TRADE STILL LOWER

Christmas trade in all parts of the United States was lower for the season than at any time since the World War. The after-holiday slump will take trade down lower than at any time this century.

Illegally held anyway, was released. About a year ago Barnett was let out on a limited parole to see his sick wife. Hartley now frees two of them. One prisoner MacIntyre, has died of tuberculosis. The fight must go on to free the rest.

STOCKHAM SHOP PAPER DRIVING BOSSES CRAZY

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The Stockham stool pigeons are still busy on the job. The bosses' boot licker, Nebbit, is mighty angry now. Also Joe Gilbert and H. Darling and the other little straw bosses.

Gilbert just had his shooting and cutting at a Negro worker because this worker had one of those shop bulletins in his hand. But the worker could not read and so he did not know how important this paper was and how the bosses are firing all white and black workers if they see them with those papers. If those papers are laying around it ain't any good to pick them up when the bosses see them. We have to get them without any bosses seeing us do it. We must get them because they tell us how to fight against firing and starvation wages and speed-up.

Let Nebbit who does all the hiring of the workers get mighty angry about the papers having his name on them. The workers are more angry about having their wages cut. Some workers have been offered a sum of money if they will find out and tell them who brings the papers in the shop. But one of the workers offered money said if he got it he wouldn't enjoy it because he can't like being a stool pigeon; he says right that no real man will pimp on anyone.

We got to organize better and build up the Metal Workers' Industrial League so we can stop the boss-spying and their stool pigeons.

Bad Conditions In Carroll County, Tenn.

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 HUNTINGDON, Tenn.—Conditions are awful here in Carroll county; farmers are broke, homes are being sold for debts, there is very little public work. A new postoffice building in Huntingdon is being put up; common labor gets from \$1.00 to \$1.25 a day. A new court house is going up at a cost of \$20,000. Common labor gets only 12 1/2 cents an hour; some labor only gets 50c to 75c a day.

But cheap as labor is no one wants to hire anybody. At least 500 families in this county got no work and had to go to get by this winter. Several renters and share croppers can't get places. How long will the slaves stand for this rotten system?

SURE-FIRE PROPHECY

Before the assembled habits of the Chattanooga Rotary Club, a certain Doctor Tom McCallie predicted that the New Year would bring poverty or plenty. Likewise McCallie and the other Rotarians will either be alive or dead. The doctor forgot to mention that the New Year will continue to bring poverty to workers and plenty to capitalists in all places where capitalism is not kicked out.

SUBSCRIBE TO SOUTHERN WORKER
 \$1.00 A YEAR, 50c FOR 6 MONTHS
 USE THIS BLANK

SOUTHERN WORKER,
 Box 1453, Chattanooga, Tenn.,

Enclosed is (50c) \$1.00 for (6 mo.) 1 year's subscription to THE SOUTHERN WORKER.

Name _____

Address _____

New Orleans Police Raids as Xmas Present for Jobless

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 NEW ORLEANS, La.—Afraid of the increasing unity of action of the white and Negro workers, the bosses of this city have ordered their police to begin raids on workers' meetings. As the fake charity plans become exposed before hungry workers, the police try to suppress our movement by vicious attacks and jailings. They are especially active against the unemployed movement and against organizers of the Trade Union Unity League and the Communist Party.

Raid Xmas Meeting

On Xmas day the bosses handed out a small portion of the profits they had stolen from the workers and of the money they had forcibly collected from those workers still with jobs. A bit of garbage called food for the starving workers and a few cheap toys for the children was the extent of their "charity."

To try to cover up their charity fraud the police raided a mass meeting called by the Unemployed Council on Xmas day to expose the frauds and to demand immediate relief from the government. A number of workers were arrested.

But this police activity will not stop our movement. Let them try to prevent us organizing. We are getting damned tired of the promises which are handed out, so let's all get together and form a mass movement that the bosses and their police cannot crush.

Bootlegger Chief of Police Jails Workers' Leader

DANVILLE, Va., Dec. 25.
 Dear Southern Worker.—The other day Chief Martin and one of his men arrested Fellow Worker W. G. Binkley because he was organizing us poor unemployed workers to better our condition. The bosses of Danville think they can starve us poor workers to death and we won't say a thing. But they will learn how badly mistaken they are. We were fooled once by the Gorman-U.T.W. outfit, but we now have our own organizations and we mean to fight for working class rights.

Martin talks about Binkley violating "laws." This is something coming from him. He used to be the biggest bootlegger in town. Just a few weeks before he was made chief they dug up 65 gallons of whiskey in his back yard. This is the kind of a guy the boss class has to uphold their laws and arrest militant workers.

They may send our leaders to jail, but the organization will grow and keep on in spite of them.

—An Unemployed Worker.

FINE AND JAIL SENTENCE FOR W. G. BINKLEY

DANVILLE, Va.—The mill bosses' government has sentenced Comrade W. G. Binkley to 90 days in jail and slapped on a fine of \$250.00 "for an offense against the sovereignty of Virginia." He was specifically charged with "preaching subversive doctrine aimed at the United States government."

The sovereignty of Virginia is only a legal term to cover up the real "crime" for which Binkley was sentenced, a challenge to the sovereignty of the mill owners, who own the government and the courts and who tell such crawling, fawning individuals as Magistrate Carter, who sentenced Binkley, what he must do.

Dismissed Libel Charge

An additional charge of libel that had been made against the Communist organizer was dismissed. Originally Binkley was charged with having "criminally libeled" James I. Pritchett, Danville banker and cotton mill operator. This charge was dismissed by Magistrate Charles K. Carter. To have left that charge stand would have been too raw for it would have clearly shown that the police and the magistrates and other courts are merely servants of Pritchett, and the other mill bosses.

It is said here that the police originally made the charge in order to show the mill bosses what good luckeys they were. When the criminal libel charge was made it is understood that Pritchett backed out the police for being stupid and ordered the magistrate not to make the mistake of sending a "labor agitator" to prison for a crime against a mill owner, but to make it a crime against the state of Virginia, so it amounts to the same thing anyway.

Had the criminal libel charge remained it would have given Binkley a chance to prove in court that all he said about Pritchett was true, or at least to attempt to prove in the face of a mill owners' magistrate.

Decision Is An Appeal

The decision of the magistrate has been appealed and Comrade Binkley is released on \$500 bond, pending the appeal.

The trial in the magistrate's court attracted a great deal of attention, and in spite of efforts of the prosecutor to prevent it, Comrade Binkley, as his own attorney, made a good case for Communism against the system of decaying capitalism.

The Binkley case is being utilized by the Communist Party for speeding up the work of mobilizing mill workers against wage cuts, and of building unemployed councils to fight against evictions and for immediate relief. It is also being used in preparation for the coming elections in which the Communist Party will run a slate of candidates in opposition to all the capitalist parties.

BUILDERS REJECT CUT

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—The rank and file forced the building trades unions officials to reject a 25 per cent wage cut. Now the officials are "negotiating" and trying to prevent strike action against further efforts to cut wages.

N. CAROLINA BANK CRASH

RALEIGH, N. C.—The Commercial National Bank crashed here December 17, just as workers who had joined Xmas Clubs started to withdraw them from the bank for Xmas spending. Many workers, hanging on to the last few dollars in the bank, lost all.

Slaw Sheffield Cuts Wages of All Their Coal Miners

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 BIRMINGHAM.—The Slaw-Sheffield Coal and Iron Company, operating a coal mine two miles north of here at Louisa, Ala., are cutting wages again. Men on pick work have been cut from 60c a ton down to 40c and men working on machine coal have been cut from 21c to 20c. All this wage cutting has been done in one year. The miners are all working under bad conditions.

We lose cars of coal, get no pay for them. Then the company weighman won't talk to us about our lost coal. The company takes six and ten tons of coal, sometimes more, when they find a little rock in the coal. The bosses take all our day's work and don't leave us anything to get our children bread.

We don't work but three days a week and sometimes the company takes about all the coal we send out. We must organize in the National Miners' Union and fight against this condition.

DELEGATES WHO VISITED U.S.S.R. TO TOUR SOUTH

BIRMINGHAM.—Preparations are being made for tours in this part of the South of members of the workers' delegation that has just returned from the Soviet Union. This is a part of a nation-wide tour of the delegates that includes the middle and far west, Kentucky and the entire south.

The American delegation was invited by the Russian trade unions to visit and study the Soviet Union and then to report to American workers what they saw. The delegation spent a considerable time in the Soviet Union, touring the whole country. They left the United States in October, in time to be guests of the Soviet Union at the great Moscow celebration of the Fourteenth Anniversary of the Revolution, on November 7.

Elected From Industries

The delegation was elected from various factories, docks, mines, and consists of four marine workers, two metal workers, one miner, one miner's wife, one chemical worker and one railroad worker. The delegates come from all parts of the country: San Francisco, Youngstown, W. Virginia mines, New York, etc.

The chairman of the delegation, Hudson, a marine worker, born in Nevada, sums up the results of their tour as follows:

"We were amazed to see that there was no unemployment whatever in the Soviet Union. Instead of unemployment, like in the United States, an acute shortage of labor prevails. In the Red Putilov factory in Leningrad, which manufactures tractors, turbines, street cars, etc., 41,000 workers are now employed, and they are short 12,000. The same shortage prevails in all factories and plants in the Soviet Union.

"Any reports that a shortage of food exists are outright lies; for we found sufficient food, which is distributed on the basis of work done; and nourishing meals can be obtained in the factory kitchens, which feed as many as 10,000 to 20,000 workers at a meal, for 20 to 40 kopecks for a meal.

"We found all over the Soviet Union new and modern apartment houses being built—the rental for a flat is 15 to 20 rubles a month, no more

DANVILLE MILL SLAVES FORCED TO GIVE MONEY

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 DANVILLE, Va.—We poor spinners of No. 6 Riverside Mill are not making enough to buy what we really need to pay our grocery bill. Whenever we get a little to pay the boss, Joe Rush passes around his hat for 25 cents from each of us spinners. He said it would be his Xmas present. But we poor workers know better because Joe has got a fine car bought on the installment plan and he is making the workers pay for it, and he had to have a little extra change to buy gas, oil and whiskey to spree around during the holidays.

I also understand that there is a real fighting union, the National Textile Workers' Union, in Danville. Fellow workers, let's get busy and organize and fight against such conditions. Unorganized we workers have no chance. But, fellow workers, in unity there is strength. The masses organized can accomplish anything. So let's get busy.

—A Riverside Mill Spinner.

CHARITY GRAFT A GREAT GAME FOR N.C. BOSSES

(By a Worker Correspondent)
 CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Last Tuesday I was down at the Welfare Office and asked them for help. They made me great promises and told me they would send a man right out and I haven't heard from them since.

Fellow workers' it is time for us to wake up and do our bit towards organizing unemployed and employed workers. They are all ready to act if we approach them in the right manner.

I have asked the charity for shoes, for food and I have also in the family and they haven't given me anything. They have collected between \$125,000 and \$145,000, and haven't distributed scarcely any to the unemployed. Taken most of it to pay the bosses for "the trouble" they have with it after they make the employed workers give it to them.

I know another unemployed man who worked for the Salvation Army for a week and did not receive anything. He went back on Saturday and did not get anything for his week's work and he said he would starve before he would go back to ask charity for help. He said to hell with charity, that he wanted the money for his work. He has ten in his family.

If there was ever a time to organize now is the time.

CHICAGO.—More than 400 musicians employed by radio stations are on strike here demanding a six-hour day with no cut in pay.

than 10 per cent of the wages.

"American workers, many of whom are being evicted from their homes and millions starving, must be on guard and understand that the bosses of this country are slandering the Soviet Union to prepare to smash the Soviet Union.

"We come back to the United States, white and Negro workers, enthused by what we have seen in the Soviet Union, and will report the whole truth to the workers organized in the A. F. of L. unions and will answer the lies of Matthew Wolf and Billy Green, etc. We will go to the steel towns, mining towns, and harbors, and tell all of the workers what the working class government is doing for all of its workers."

The Southern Worker

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U. S. A.

Jim Allen, Managing Editor

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Box 1453

Subscription Rates: \$1.00 A Year; 50 cents a Half Year

Mass Power Will Free the Scottsboro Boys

Within a few days the Alabama Supreme Court will hear the appeal of the International Labor Defense attorneys for the nine Scottsboro boys. A lynch verdict of a lower court is appealed to a higher lynch court. Eight innocent boys, convicted on the testimony of common prostitutes, are in the shadow of the electric chair. Their arrest, imprisonment, and the death sentence imposed upon them is a part of the lynch campaign of the ruling class; a campaign carried on as a part of the drive against the living standards of the Negro and white workers in the industries and on the land.

Is there any worker so deluded as to doubt that the Alabama Supreme Court is not a part of the lynch gang? Does anyone imagine that this court, of its own accord, will free the eight boys now in the death house at Kilby prison? Of course it will not. It will yield only when the masses of workers and farmers, white and Negro in this country and throughout the world, prove by their action that no lynch terror, legal or illegal, will stem the rising tide of working class militancy.

The eight boys now in Kilby prison, and the fourteen year old child, Roy Wright would now be dead, murdered in the electric chair, had it not been for the storm of protest that held the hand of the executioner last July. A higher court, either the Alabama Supreme Court, or the United States Supreme Court will reverse the decision of the lower lynch court only if the workers prove in action that if the ruling class dares send these boys to the electric chair it will not stop the growing unity of Negro and white workers, but will, on the contrary, raise the class struggle to a higher stage.

To try to stem the great mass movement in defense of the Scottsboro boys the ruling class called to its aid such organizations of the Negro capitalist elements as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was the particularly dirty job of that organization to try to hold back the growing mass movement so that the lynch gang could, without serious danger, carry out its murderous plans. In pursuit of that aim they enlisted Clarence Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays to help their Southern attorneys who had urged the boys at first to plead guilty to the infamous charges against them. To the very last, until they were kicked out of the case by the imprisoned boys themselves, Darrow, Hays and their accomplices, tried to persuade the International Labor Defense, whose attorneys, backed up by a mighty mass movement, have thus far saved the boys, to quit the case.

The trickery of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been exposed, and one of their principal maneuverers defeated. But that is not sufficient. That organization and its leaders must be completely annihilated so that it will forever remain discredited before the masses of Negro workers. One of the best ways of following up its present defeat is to demand that it immediately give an accounting of the funds it has collected while falsely stating that it was defending the Scottsboro boys. In connection with the intensification of the drive to free the Scottsboro boys and in the general struggle against the lynch gang, these scoundrels and swindlers, these aides of the hangmen, should be compelled to turn over to the International Labor Defense the money they collected under false pretenses.

Workers everywhere should rally in ever greater numbers to the defense of the Scottsboro boys. Mighty demonstrations must be held in all working class centers. All workers' organizations should join in the fight. An avalanche of telegrams of protest should flow into the office of Governor Miller, head of the Alabama lynch government, demanding the immediate release of the eight boys in the Kilby death house and of Roy Wright, a mere child, still awaiting trial in Birmingham County jail.

Down with the bosses' lynch justice!

White and Negro workers and farmers unite for mass defense against the lynch terror!

White workers! Do not let the bosses incite you against the Negro workers, but unite both white and black workers for a fight against the common enemy, the boss, the landlord, and their lynch governments!

Stop the campaign of lynching!

Death to the lynchers!

Again the Flood Horror

Tens of thousands of the poorest, most poverty stricken land slaves of the South are fleeing with their families before the onrush of the flood waters. A cloudburst sent the waters of the Tallahatchie roaring out of the river channel and spreading over miles of land. Men, women and children, undernourished and weakened from the pangs of perpetual hunger, flee in panic before the flood sweeping over the crumbling dikes. The state government of Mississippi sends more than a thousand convicts—workers and farmers in chains for trivial offenses—to try to stem the tide along the twelve-mile front of broken levees. At any moment they may all be swept to a horrible death. But human life is cheap—much cheaper than feeding the bankers and landlords to keep the levees safe from these recurring floods.

Negro and white farmers, Negro and white workers of the small towns of Tallahatchie, Quitman and Panola counties are united as victims of a common fate—helplessly wandering day and night without food or shelter, seeing the weaker fall by the roadside and die, compelled to flee onward for fear of their own lives.

Meanwhile the state officials talk, the Red Cross conducts a survey under the direction of a female "field worker." The government at Washington is silent. Capitalizing the misery arising out of the flood of 1927, Hoover, then secretary of commerce, enabled the New Orleans bankers, affiliated with Wall Street, to grab all the land they desired. Promises were then made that the levee system would be made safe and the survivors of that disaster were

COAL COMPANY KILLS WORKERS



With the gun of the "law" in hand, the coal companies of eastern Kentucky are here depicted shooting down militant miners as they strike against starvation pay. This cartoon appeared in the New York World-Telegram after the International Labor Defense, with the aid of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, headed by Theodore Dreiser, had exposed Sheriff John Henry Blair's reign of terror.

CONFERENCE TO SPREAD STRIKE ON JANUARY 17

(Continued from Front Page)

donating lumber, nails and other supplies for the kitchens. Hundreds of miners are gathering furniture, plates, spoons and everything necessary to conduct the soup kitchens.

The plans are completed for election of a broad rank-and-file strike committee, defense committee, and strengthening of relief committees, etc., in every mine.

The Central Strike Committee, to be elected January 1, at mass meetings, will meet Wednesday to develop strike strategy. Following this the Section Strike Conferences, which are in preparative now, will be held to establish sectional strike leadership.

Plans To Spread the Strike

The District Board of the N. M. U., at its meeting this evening, after a careful examination of the whole situation, decided to spread the strike nation as well as the forces at its feet back to the land, to slave for less than a living.

The ministers, the preachers, are playing their usual part; telling the suffering farmers and workers that it is the decree of an almighty god who wants to test them. They are liars all. The United States government is responsible for this flood as it has been responsible for all recent food disasters. A government that spends billions upon war preparations, a government that is at this moment aiding imperialism war against the Chinese masses, that it plotting the invasion of the Soviet Union, that is perfecting its war machine to challenge its imperialist rivals for a redivision of the colonial world, a government that is plotting to murder millions of youth and young manhood of the country in behalf of Wall Street, such a government cannot find a few millions of dollars to spend to protect the Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana farmers and workers from the flood terror.

Most of the area of the Tallahatchie, Yazoo and lower Mississippi river valleys is in the Black Belt of the South, where the Negroes are an absolute majority. They are denied a voice in the government. The politicians at Washington don't need to worry about the votes of these victims of recurring floods—they have no vote. The inhabitants of that section are a part of a nation within the United States. These recurring flood disasters are a part of the economic and political threadlines under which the masses of white and black workers and farmers live. With the right of self-determination the people of that oppressed nation would find ways and means of protecting their lives and property from destruction.

Meanwhile something must be done immediately by the working class of this country and of the world. It is indeed deplorable that the United States section of the International Workers' Aid is not yet strong enough to take the lead in organizing relief for these tens of thousands of men, women and children. But even though it is not possible to meet this immediate situation it is possible and imperative that a nation-wide campaign be made demanding of the government that war funds be used for the immediate relief of these suffering masses.

COMPANY THUG KILLED AS HE ATTACKS MEN

HARLAN, Ky.—One of the dirtiest dogs of gun thugs met his just deserts when he died while engaged in attacking union miners who were distributing leaflets for the Wallace Creek mass meeting held Sunday. The dead gunman is Owen Sizemore, brother-in-law of the coal operators' prosecuting attorney, W. A. Brock.

Waylaid Miners

Sizemore, known as a professional murderer, in company with a pimp named James Dixon, waylaid two miners at Chevrolet, near the Blue Diamond Coal Company's camp. The two miners, Hutton and Hall, the latter eighty-two years old, were set upon and were being severely beaten by the two gun-thugs. In self-defense Hutton fired, killing Sizemore and thereby riding the world of a rat who should have been wiped off the earth long ago.

It was quite evident that Hutton and Hall were to be murdered by the gun thugs as part of the drive to crush the strike preparations. The two miners are now in jail facing a murder charge, along with Leonard Farmer, who is charged with having handed Hutton the gun with which he rid the earth of Sizemore.

By helping the Kentucky miners win their strike we will force open the jail doors that now imprison the miners who defended themselves against paid murderers of the coal companies.

CHLOROFORM FOR BABY

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A mother driven to the verge of insanity, watching her child wither away from enforced starvation because she cannot get a job or relief, asked the Animal Rescue Society to chloroform the child. The society dispensed of suffering animals, like cats and dogs. The society called the police.

BURN UNEMPLOYED SHACKS

SEATTLE Wash.—Police burned two colonies of shacks put up by homeless unemployed, which were on city property.

that 17,000 miners will quit. Try feeding 17,000 miners and their families on less than \$25,000 a day."

While raising this issue hypocritically, the "Sun" in the same issue and on the same page writes about the plans of the "Pineville Welfare League" to give employment to the unemployed. It states:

"There will be but a limited supply of funds and only those in serious circumstances need apply. The rate of pay will be 12 1/2¢ an hour and various civic operations will be undertaken. The work will be distributed so that the men with the most dependents will be given a greater number of days a week. The single man, consequently will be given but one or two days a week under present plans."

We would like to know how these workers, working one and two days a week, at the rate of 12 1/2¢ an hour, will make an average of \$10.00 a week. Yet the "Sun" is praising this starvation plan of the city government and worries about "unlimited resources back of this strike." If the "Sun" is so anxious to know we wish to inform them that the working class of the United is the "unlimited resource back of this strike." The "Sun" and its masters, the coal operators, will be astonished at the amount of the support the working class will give to the striking Kentucky miners to help them to defeat starvation and terror, supported by the "Sun."