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Harry Simms Murdered by Gun Thug

COAL OPERATORS' AGENTS HI-JACK THREE RELIEF TRUCKS

PINEVILLE GANG STEALS FOOD; AND SLUGS TWO

PINEVILLE, Ky.—The gang of lackeys of the mine owners—thieves, thugs, pimps, bootleggers all—that control the city of Pineville, engaged in an orgy of stealing, arresting on framed-up charges, lying and slugging when a committee of prominent writers, journalists, doctors and former Red Cross relief workers came in with three truck loads of food to distribute to starving miners.

Steal Relief Food

As soon as the first truck pulled into Pineville vicinity it was met by a band of armed thugs who took charge of it, drove it through the town and pillaged its contents.

The committee left Knoxville Wednesday morning with three truck-loads of food to distribute in Pineville. Mayor J. M. Brooks, a dentist, who gets coal company graft, announced that no food could be distributed in the town. The chairman of the committee, Waldo Frank, eminent novelist and critic and other members of the committee—Edmund Wilson, critic; Malcolm Cowley, editor of the New Republic; Mary Heaton Vorse, novelist and magazine writer; Dr. Elsie Reed Mitchell, prominent New York physician who served with the Red Cross and Near East Relief in France and Armenia during the war; Liston Oak, journalist; Polly Boyden, magazine writer; John Henry Hammond, son of a New York multi-millionaire and Quincy Howe, editor of the Living Age—went to the local hotel to interview Mayor Brooks. Soon a gang of 25 or 30 hoodlums arrived and began insulting and trying to browbeat the committee. Brooks finally arrived and members of the committee present, women and all, were shoved into waiting cars and taken to Cumberland Gap, favorite slugging place of the gun thugs. Waldo Frank and Allen Taub, attorney for the International Labor Defense, were forced out of the cars by thugs and beaten with automobile jacks and pistols. Both bore marks of the beating and Frank spent the remainder of the night in a Knoxville hospital.

Pineville's "Leading Citizens"

The thug gang was led by Mayor Brooks, George Brown, Herndon Evans, the vicious and ignorant paid liar and pervert who edits the Pineville Sun; Police Judge J. Y. Page and Deputy John Wilson. The other degenerates could not be identified.

The six "leaders" of the mob are regarded as "leading citizens" of Pineville and are all part of the mine owners' hoodlum gang, who subjected the committee members to the vilest and foulest language all the way to the slugging ground on the Gap.

Doris Parks and Hickerson in Jail

Doris Parks, in charge of the Knoxville office of the Kentucky-Ten-

EVANS, EDITOR OF RAT SHEET, TELLS NEW LIE

PINEVILLE, Ky.—Herndon Evans craven coward and miserable poltroon, who is the professional hired liar of the coal operators, in his slimy rat sheet, the Pineville Sun, has doped up a new lie. After being a member of the gang of cowards that slugged Waldo Frank and Allen Taub, Evans told a ridiculous story to the effect that Frank and Taub were not beaten by thugs, but that they beat each other up so they could blame it on the thugs.

Gives Game Away

In his lying statement Evans gives away his own gang. He says that the delegation that came to distribute relief and were kidnapped and taken to Cumberland Gap, where Frank and Taub were beaten consisted of "60 or 70 Pineville citizens, among whom were doctors, lawyers, and other prominent residents as well as representatives of the local police."

His story is so stupid and ridiculous that it defeated its purpose and further exposed Evans and the thug business and professional gang of Pineville to all workers in this vicinity.

Will Drive Them Out

Although the nearest mines to Pineville are the Straight Creek Mines, there are other workers in the town, and they are making a list of the thugs who robbed the food trucks and took the delegation for a ride and, in spite of the terror, many openly say that they are going to boycott these rats and starve all of them out who depend upon workers' trade in any way.

Workers' children are being taught to refuse to speak to the brats of the thug gang and to have nothing to do with them in any way except to show their contempt for their fathers and mothers. Wives of workers declare they will boycott the wives of all who helped try to starve the miners and impose slavery upon the whole population.

Class lines are being sharpened every day and long after the present strike is over the fight will go on under other forms and in the end the rat crew will pay dearly for their present kidnapping, slugging and murder campaign.

Kentucky workers will never forget!

Tennessee Miners' Relief of the International Workers' Relief and Harold Hickerson, playwright author of the "Gods of Lightning," were thrown in jail for attempting to speak to miners who had gathered for relief that was carried in by the trucks. Both were charged with criminal syndicalism and are held under high bond.

Alfred Wagonknecht, national secretary of the Workers' International Relief, and a corps of relief workers

Youthful Leader Shot Down While Organizing to Protect Distribution of Food in Defiance of Murder Gang

ARMED TROOPS STOP FUNERAL PREPARATIONS

Knowing that the murder of Harry Simms had aroused the striking miners to a new determination to struggle against starvation and terror, Gov. Laffoon of Kentucky ordered hordes of state militia and special armed thugs into the strike area to prevent a public funeral being held Monday. The cowardly professional murder gang were afraid the mass fury of the miners would reach such a stage that the whole thug outfit would be wiped out, so the strike-breaking governor, Ruby Laffoon (an alleged man with a woman's name) ordered out a militia unit from Harlan, the very heart of the gun thug ridden coal fields.

Barbourville Armed Camp

The town of Barbourville, where Comrade Simms died and where the mass funeral was to be held, was an armed camp. Hundreds of miners who tried to enter the place during Monday were stopped by heavily armed brigades of troops and mine thugs and business and professional men who had been sworn in as special armed police by Ralph Mayhew, who is "chief of police" of Barbourville. Sheriff B. P. Walker had his own gang of special thugs and gunmen on hand.

New York Funeral

Only two members of the union memorial committee were permitted to enter Barbourville and they, together with Miss Dorothy Wilkes, the New York nurse, who came to Pineville with a delegation of New York writers, took charge of the body. In the afternoon the remains of the murdered youth were sent to New York City, where his comrades and associates on the National Executive Committee of the Young Communist League and the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party prepared a mass funeral in that city to take place Wednesday. Simultaneously there are to be nation-wide demonstrations against the murder regime in the Kentucky fields and against the whole capitalist class, which is responsible for starvation and terror conditions in Kentucky and in other sections of the South and North.

are concentrating on the problem of getting food to the strikers and their families. The strikers are furious at these continued and increasingly violent attacks upon relief distribution, but they are more determined than ever to continue the fight and show, are perpetrated against them.

TO ALL WHO ARE OUTSIDE THE KENTUCKY MURDER ZONE:

Kentucky-Tennessee miners are in the seventh week of their heroic struggle against starvation and terror. One of their best leaders has been shot down. Every leader in the field daily and hourly faces the same fate at the hands of the armed scum of the earth recruited by the mine owners.

Only greater organization, only a more closely organized mass movement can protect working class fighters against these murder drives. The miners are closing their ranks and preparing for a still greater struggle. But they must have means with which to fight. They must have at least a little food and clothing for themselves and families. The gunmen know the miners can fight on very little. They know what even three truck-loads of relief means—that is why they hi-jacked relief trucks from New York.

You, who are not in the Kentucky field, should do your share to help the fighting miners. You can do it by collecting money, food and clothing and rushing it to Kentucky-Tennessee Miners' Relief, Room 506, 514 Market St., Knoxville, Tenn.

WAS LEADER OF YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Harry Simms, 19-year-old Young Communist League leader, was shot down by Arlin Miller, guard at the Tropser Mine on Brush Creek, Knox county, Kentucky, early Wednesday morning, while on his way to lead a group of striking miners to Pineville, to welcome the delegation that came from New York with three truck loads of food for the strikers, their wives and children.

The bullet from the thug's gun pierced the body of the young strike leader through the side, penetrating the stomach and liver and shattering the kidney. Rushed to Dr. Logan's hospital at Barbourville, an operation was immediately performed but the bullet could not be extracted. Two blood transfusions were given in an effort to save his life during Wednesday night and Thursday. Nothing that could be done could save the fallen youth and he died at 9:25 o'clock Thursday evening.

New Murder Drive

The murder of Harry Simms followed immediately after a threat by one of the coal operators' henchmen, Walter Smith, county attorney of Bell county, who threatened: "Inside of a few days there won't be any Communists left in this country. We have decided to get rid of them once and for all." Arlin Miller, the depraved gun thug deputized by the sheriff of Knox county and paid by the Tropser mine on Brush Creek, was the first to carry into action the threat of Walter Smith.

Harry Simms and Green Lawson a local miner, were walking along the railroad track to meet a delegation of miners that were to proceed to the demonstration at Pineville that was scheduled for 1:00 that afternoon. The professional murderer, Miller, accompanied by another thug called "Red" Davis, speeded by in a small railroad motor car, stopped suddenly when they recognized Simms, turned back and without a word of warning shot Simms pointblank. Lawson threw up his arms and was not hurt. Then the thugs dragged Harry Simms to the motor vehicle, arrested Lawson and went to Artemus, where they took Lawson to jail on a charge of carrying a gun, while leaving Simms bleeding on the ground. Later on other deputized thugs took the fatally wounded youth to the hospital at Barbourville.

(Continued on Page 2)

the mine owners that they cannot be crushed no matter what atrocities

United Mine Workers Strike Breaking Plot Exposed

LABOR FAKERS OF CHATTA. IN SCABBY DEAL

The labor skates at the head of the Chattanooga Trades and Labor Council have joined hands with the gang of mine owners, kept judges, newspaper liars, professional murderers and jailers in Kentucky who are trying to smash by terror the heroic Kentucky and Tennessee miners. At their regular meeting last Monday these fakers issued a lying statement against workers who are collecting relief for the starving miners, their wives and children. They said the United Mine Workers of America, the scabby outfit of John L. Lewis, Turnblazer and Bates, was aiding the miners.

Delegation Replies

A relief delegation, consisting of John W. Moore a striking miner from Kentucky, and Mabel Cox, wife of a striker, who are collecting relief under the Tennessee-Kentucky Miners' Relief of the Workers' International Relief, with headquarters at Knoxville, issued a statement repudiating and exposing the Chattanooga fakers.

The statement is as follows:

"The Chattanooga newspapers report that a statement has been issued by the Chattanooga Trades and Labor Council, signed by a special committee composed of Paul J. Aymon, president of the Tennessee Federation of Labor; W. A. Hunt, and Walter Gardner, urging those who sympathize with the cause of the miners of Harlan and Bell counties, Kentucky, to contribute only to appeals coming from 'accredited representatives of the United Mine Workers of America.'

"We are the credentialed representatives of the Kentucky-Tennessee Striking Miners' Relief of the Workers' International Relief, which has from the beginning handled relief for the thousands of miners and their families struggling against starvation and terror in the Kentucky-Tennessee strike.

Rank and File Leadership

The leading committee of the strike is the central rank and file strike committee elected by the miners themselves. It was elected by the organized and unorganized, the employed, unemployed and blacklisted, the white and Negro miners. The great majority of strikers belong to the National Miners' union, which was and is the organizer and leader in the struggle.

U. M. W. of A. Repudiated

"As far as the United Mine Workers of America are concerned, the rank and file of the Kentucky-Tennessee miners have left that organization because of it selling us out in many strikes, even further back than 1920-21, which John L. Lewis signed an agreement with the mine owners that these mines would not strike struggle against high rents."

WIN RENT CUTS

Unemployed Councils in Brooklyn and the Bronx, New York, have won cuts in rent by organization and struggle against high rents.

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with the northern miners in the great strikes of 1922. For this sell-out John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, was accused by one of his own officials of getting \$100,000 to help the Kentucky-Tennessee mines operate while other miners in the country were on strike.

No Relief From Fakers

"In this strike the officials of the United Mine Workers of America have kept up their strike-breaking activities by doing exactly what the officials of the Chattanooga Trades and Labor Council is doing now: trying to prevent the collection of relief and this way helping the slave-driving operators to use the weapon of starvation against men, women and children. No relief from the United Mine Workers has ever been distributed to the strikers, their wives or children. The only people supported United Mine Workers of America are its own scabbing henchmen, whose only activity is to try to split the ranks of the striking miners. These people work with the thugs and gunmen in their vicious attempts to break up and destroy the ranks of the miners. Bates, organizer for the United Mine Workers of America, rode around in automobiles with armed gun thugs on Jan. 24, and pointed out miners who were going to Pineville to attend the 'Spread-the-Strike Conference' that day.

Appeal to Rank and File

"We are sure that the rank and file of the membership of the unions in Chattanooga affiliated with the Central Trades and Labor Council will absolutely turn down the strike-breaking advice of the leadership of that council. We believe that if the real record of treachery and betrayal of the United Mine Workers of America leadership is brought to the membership of the unions in Chattanooga they will not stand by these council officials.

"We have been sent to Chattanooga to collect funds and clothing and food for the miners and their families fighting against the worst starvation and terror in this country and we are going to do our best to carry out the job given us and to expose to the workers and their sympathizers the double-crossing part played by the United Mine Workers of America officials.

Followed by Gun-Thug

"Since coming to Chattanooga we have been followed by a detective from Pineville, together with a Chattanooga detective. We believe they are trying to fix up some kind of a frame-up on us like they did on many of our organizers and fellow-workers. We are sure that the workers of Chattanooga will not stand for any dirty frame-ups for workers who are trying to get help for starving women and children."

WIN RENT CUTS

Unemployed Councils in Brooklyn and the Bronx, New York, have won cuts in rent by organization and struggle against high rents.

Workers of World Demand Release of Scottsboro Boys

BULLETIN

NEW YORK.—A \$5,000 fund to continue the defense of the Scottsboro boys is being raised by the International Labor Defense. Money will be needed to carry on this now internationally famous case, whichever way the Alabama Supreme Court decides, according to J. Louis Engdahl, secretary of the I.L.D. A favorable decision will throw the case back to the lower courts for a new trial; and an adverse decision will mean an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court, says Engdahl. Contributions to save the boys' lives should be sent to the Scottsboro Defense Fund, Room 430, 80 E. 77th St., New York City.

PITTSBURG, Pa.—Twelve Negro and white workers were sentenced to from 10 to 30 days in jail here for demonstrating against the Scottsboro death verdicts on the day of the Supreme Court hearing. Similar demonstrations were held by the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights in one hundred American cities.

LONDON, Eng.—Two thousand workers here marched from the Thames to Hyde Park where, they held demonstrations against the Scottsboro death verdict, according to information received by the International Labor Defense. Resolutions demanding freedom of the boys were then delivered by a delegation of English workers to the American Embassy.

BERLIN, Ger.—A cablegram signed by leading German scientists, writers, authors and artists for the release of the Scottsboro boys has been sent to Chief Justice Anderson of the Alabama Supreme Court.

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Langston Hughes, celebrated Negro novelist and poet, has wired the following telegram to the I.L.D.: "Visited the Scottsboro boys in Kilby Prison. They are hopeful of soon being free. I congratulate you on splendid presentation made by Brodsky before

Communism Stronger Each Year, Says Prof.

ATLANTA.—Communism in the Soviet Union is stronger each year and is a permanent institution. Dr. Calvin Hoover of Duke University, told the Emory college citizenship committee here. Dr. Hoover just returned from a two-year stay in the Soviet Union.

Discussing economic conditions in the Soviet Union as compared with the rest of the world, Dr. Hoover said the Soviet economic position seems stronger each year and that the disappearance of unemployment in that country has coincided with an increase in the number of jobless in capitalist countries.

Profoundly Affects World

Declaring that the race between communism and capitalism "has now gotten well under way under conditions just now unfavorable to capitalism," he said it now seems certain that the history of the world during the next decade and during the next century is to be profoundly affected by the results of the Russian experiment.

court as reported by friends here. Success to you in appeal."

Scottsboro Protests Mount to 50,000

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Over 50,000 letters, telegrams and resolutions condemning the death verdict of the Scottsboro boys have poured into Alabama's capital here, it is estimated by southern newspapermen. Pending the decision of the Supreme Court on the appeal from the Scottsboro court, new floods of protests continue daily to roll in.

As a result of these telegrams from as far off as India, Australia and South Africa, the Birmingham News, largest newspaper in the South, is compelled to admit: "The Supreme Court carries the consciousness that no other case in Alabama history has the wide interest of this one. The eyes of the world are centered on those seven men who hold the highest judicial positions in Alabama. They cannot be immune to the significance of their deliberations and reverberations of their decision." The News, in its lead, compares the fight made for the boys by the International Labor Defense to "Sacco-Vanzetti case in Boston and the Mooney-Billings case in California, as a fight for justice to members of and oppressed race."

Women and War Pamphlet Is Out

War in China. Japanese imperialists burning Chinese houses, shelling Chinese workers. Chinese children, women and men blown to pieces by shells, burned alive in their homes. American gunboats landing troops in China.

What has this war in the East to do with women workers in factories, fields and homes in the United States? What did the World War mean to women of the working class, and what will the next imperialist war mean? What preparations is the United States making for war? And why does the capitalist class want war against the Soviet Union, the workers' republic?

These are some of the questions answered in the new pamphlet, "Women and War," by Grace Hutchins, published by the Communist Party of the U. S., and now ready for distribution in connection with International Women's Day, March 8.

With illustrations and a picture-cover drawn by Wm. Gropper, the pamphlet presents a most attractive appearance and it should be distributed by the thousands not only among women workers but among men workers as well. To secure the widest possible distribution for the March 8th demonstrations, send your bundle order TODAY to Workers' Library Publishers, Box 148, Sta. D, New York City. 5c per copy. \$3.33 per hundred, plus express charges.

Bundle Orders Must Be Paid For

Again it is necessary to warn all receiving bundle orders of our paper that they must be paid for. This neglect to pay for bundle orders absolutely endangers the very life of the SOUTHERN WORKER. We have not even received the money we have to spend for postage for such orders. The paper cannot operate on promises any longer. Printing bills cannot be paid by promissory notes that will be made good after the revolution.

Time and again we have pointed out in letters to individual comrades and to various committees that this is a form of irresponsibility to the movement. We now proclaim it in our columns. Since our last appeal we have received numerous promises, but little action. Some of those receiving the biggest bundles have been content with promises and nothing more.

If your bundles are late you know we had to wait until we could get postage from others who do pay to make up for your own neglect. If you miss bundles you know it is for the same reason. If our paper has to suspend you will know who is to blame—as we know who is to blame.

The fact that places like New Orleans are able to pay for increased bundle orders and to use the paper as an agitator and organizer is evidence that others can do so if they try hard enough.

At a time such as this, when our best leaders risk their lives daily in the Kentucky struggle, at a time when the Scottsboro campaign enters a new stage, at a moment when lynch terror increases, every revolutionary ought to realize the necessity of supporting our Party press—not only the SOUTHERN WORKER—but the Daily Worker which has been reduced to two pages recently as an emergency measure to keep it alive.

DANVILLE COPS RAID HOME AND JAIL WORKERS

DANVILLE, Va., (in jail February 9th.)—Fearing the growing militancy of the workers, the police today, after long and secret spying, raided a worker's home and arrested four workers—"Red" Robinson, J. Lee Brown, Ed Witt and W. G. Binkley.

The police also confiscated a mimeograph machine and threw the four workers into their lousy jail, two of them so sick they should have gone to the hospital instead.

The law thinks they are getting smart, but the workers will show them that they will organize in spite of the bosses's terror.

Chief Martin gave his thugs orders to kill any of the four arrested if they could make them run away.

Since we have been in jail we have come to find out that we have a Party unit of six here in jail, recruited for the Party. I think we will have a unit meeting here in jail some time this evening. All the workers here in jail are in sympathy with us and if we stay here much longer we will have all of them lined up.

One bad thing here in jail is that we cannot see the Negro prisoners—they are jim-crowed even here.

We work in jail or out. Everywhere there are workers we talk to them and the Danville workers are getting damned tired of the bosses and the police trying to stop us from organizing our unions.

The workers are very much angered at our arrest and will positively do everything they can do to get us out of jail when we are framed in the morning. Our case must be appealed to a higher court as we know we are already convicted in this kangaroo court here.

The police chief, when he arrested us, was actually so scared that he shook. We workers will give them something to be scared for in the near future, regardless of what the thieving mill bosses say. The red union is in Danville to stay in spite of the bosses and their police thugs.

—Ed Witt.

CHILD HUNGER IN N. Y.

More than 50,000 children go to school hungry in New York, the richest city in the world.

possible distribution for the March 8th demonstrations, send your bundle order TODAY to Workers' Library Publishers, Box 148, Sta. D, New York City. 5c per copy. \$3.33 per hundred, plus express charges.

Young Communist Leader Murdered by Ky. Thugs

HARRY SIMMS DIES FIGHTING FOR HIS CLASS

(Continued from Front Page)

Glad Others Escaped

Just as Harry Simms fought heroically in the class struggle in many places to which he was assigned, so he fought with grim determination for life up until the last second. When visited at the hospital late Wednesday by some of his comrades, he grasped them by the hands and told them he felt a great relief that they, at least, had escaped the bullets of the assassins. In reply to a question as to how he felt, he said he was "all right," but that he had a pain inside and felt "very tired." He anxiously asked about the other comrades who were engaged in mobilizing the strikers for the Pineville demonstration.

Besides the regular hospital nurse a special nurse was sent by the Workers' International Relief, who remained with Comrade Simms to the end.

Plot to Steal, Destroy Body

When news of the bestial shooting of Harry Simms reached the miners a wave of mass indignation swept the thug-ridden hills. Angry men, with a grim look behind their tear-dimmed eyes, gathered in groups. The thugs took for cover and for hours not one of them was to be seen. When the death of the youthful leader became known, the foul murder gang at Pineville plotted to go to Barbourville, raid the undertaking establishment, steal the body of the 19-year-old martyr and destroy it. They feared Harry Simms dead worse than they despised him alive. News of the plot reached headquarters of the union and the sheriff of Knox county, the chief of police of Barbourville and the coal operators' governor of Kentucky, Ruby Laffoon, were called by phone and told Friday night that they would be held strictly responsible for any desecration of the body of Comrade Simms. The result was that that part of the vile terror plot had to be abandoned.

Worked In South

Harry Simms, since the fall of 1930 had been district organizer of the Young Communist League of District No. 17, with headquarters at Birmingham. He took a leading part in all the campaigns—Scottsboro, Camp Hill, the Willie Peterson case. While carrying on Young Communist League work he was also called upon frequently when the district organizer of the Party was out in the District field, extending from Kentucky to Florida and across to New Orleans, to carry on both Party and League direction. He had been arrested a number of times by the Birmingham police for his activity in organizing the employed and unemployed Negro and white workers for a struggle against the common enemy. In July, 1931, he was elected to the National Executive Committee of the Young Communist League, at its 6th National Congress in New York. Returning South again he threw himself with still greater energy into the work.

From the first he worked tirelessly on the District Committee of District No. 17 in the preliminary work of the Kentucky strike. He was anxious from the beginning to go into the Kentucky field. He was the first member of the District committee to be assigned to Kentucky during the period of the strike. Aware of the dangers that faced him, he was, because of such danger, more determined to go and help direct the Kentucky and Tennessee miners in their fight.

Tennessee Coal and Iron Getting Ready for War

(By a Worker Correspondent)

BIRMINGHAM.—For the past two weeks the Tennessee Coal and Iron Co. has been working to get its Ensley blast furnaces in first class shape. All furnaces are being overhauled and a crew of workers are working night and day to get the furnaces in shape. Not only this but they have not been satisfied with having direct connections with a Louisiana Natural Gas Co. to their furnaces and also connections from their by-product gas plant but have overhauled the old tear gas plant which means then now have three different connections so that in the event anything should happen to one there would be two auxiliary plants to fall back on.

It is no accident that the T. C. I. which is one of the biggest producers of war materials should start this activity at the present time when there isn't a single known order in sight. With a new world war on the verge of breaking out most any time in the Far East with imperialist attacks upon the Soviet Union and the attempt to crush the Chinese revolution the American imperialists have a war material center closer to the front in Birmingham than any other industrial city that produces such supplies. Birmingham is close to the Gulf of Mexico and has the Warrior river with the best of shipping facilities at hand. Not only that but the city of Birmingham, which is rapidly being developed, with direct connections by rail with the TCI plants, has been highly approved by a leading officer of the United States army.

Then the Goslin Machine Foundry has in the past two weeks put additional men to work and all machinery is being put into working condition. It just happens that this plant was one of the largest producers of huge shells and torpedoes during the last war. This same Army officer stated that all blueprints for the production

of war materials is ready and is highly satisfied with Birmingham. This was said during a visit two weeks ago.

It also happens that the Birmingham papers at the beginning of the occupation of Shanghai stated that this city would be able to give the unemployed work if war were to break out because of the nearness of Birmingham to the Gulf for shipping to the Far East.

Already the workers of the T. C. I. plant are talking about the connection between the bosses' policy of wage-cuts, speed-up, unemployment and the war preparations. The workers know that these war materials are to be made to help the boss class bring into slavery millions of workers of countries like China and to make war against the Soviet Union, which is going ahead while the bosses' capitalist world is going downward very rapidly.

against starvation and terror.

Born In Massachusetts

Harry Simms was born in Springfield, Mass. His parents were workers. At the age of 14 he went to work in a textile mill, where he soon learned that in the class struggle the Communist movement alone is the means whereby the workers can defeat capitalism and strike off the shackles of wage slavery. He was elected Young Communist League organizer in Connecticut in 1929. On the following March 6th, in the great unemployed demonstrations, he was arrested and sentenced to jail, where he spent four

UNEMPLOYED OF KNOXVILLE IN RELIEF DRIVE

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Workers out of jobs here are forming unemployed Councils to fight against the fake "relief" schemes of the city administration and to demand unemployment insurance sufficient to keep the jobless from starvation.

The city relief is just a fraud. At present the city pays those whom it permits to work at all, the measly amount of \$2 a day for one day's work a week. Out of this \$2, there is taken off 30 cents for "overhead," whatever that means. Unemployed workers are forced to shovel garbage which reeks with disease and filth. Many of them get ill from the effects of handling rotten stuff. Then the unemployed have only one outfit of rags for clothing so they have to go to their hovels called homes with smelly clothes. That is how they are forced not only to come in contact with disease themselves, but carry disease home to the starving women and children.

Committee at Work

A committee of twenty-five workers has been working hard lately getting Unemployed Councils organized. A meeting was held in Floyd Hall attended by more than two hundred white and Negro workers. Seven workers made speeches from the floor on how to organize block committees in all working class sections.

Harry Jackson spoke and described the work of building councils and putting up a mass struggle for unemployment insurance. A program was worked out as follows at the meeting:

1. Unemployment insurance at the expense of the bosses to be administered by committees of unemployed and employed workers.
2. Cash payment for all city work.
3. Forty cents an hour on all relief jobs.
4. Full week's work on all relief jobs.
5. No evictions of unemployed for non-payment of rent.
6. Free light, water, gas and coal for the unemployed.
7. Cash relief for unemployed workers.
8. No discrimination against Negroes in distribution of relief or jobs.

Agitation Going On

Besides the meetings of unemployed workers, there is a steady drive to reach those workers still on the job who are in constant danger of being thrown into the ranks of the jobless. Meetings are being held at shop and mill gates and work is going on among the railroad workers who are suffering the effects of unemployment, part time work and wage cuts.

LIVE ON DUMP HEAP

Hundreds of Chattanooga unemployed, men and women, white and Negro, dig over the refuse of the city dump heaps to get a bite of cast-off food to eat. The same is true of unemployed in Atlanta, Birmingham, and even smaller places like Gadsden, Alabama.

months, before coming south. In Birmingham he worked under the pseudonym, "Harry Gilbert" because of the police activity against the Party and the League there, just as many another revolutionist has had to work and does have to work in similar conditions.

Gun Thugs Crush Bladenboro Strike Against Wage Cut

TARHEEL, N. C.—An unorganized strike at the Bladenboro cotton mills was crushed by mill owners, police and sheriff's forces after three days. Bladenboro is a mill village near here with a population of but 1,500. About 600 people, men women and children, are employed at the mill, which is the only one in Bladen county.

Struck Against Slavery

A condition of virtual slavery exists in the mill town of Bladenboro. Wages are frightfully low. Then the company doesn't pay in money all the time; most of the time it tries to force the workers to accept checks good only at the store operated by the company. Many workers do not get even these checks as they owe the company store more than their wages according to the way the thieves at the store figure things.

On top of all this came the announcement of a ten per cent wage cut. It was this that provoked the strike.

All the workers went out. They were not affiliated with any union and did not know anything about holding meetings, setting up rank and file strike committees or picketing the plant.

Guns, Tear Gas, Arrests

As soon as the strike started Sheriff N. L. Tatum and his deputies got on the job. Additional thugs were imported from the adjoining county of Robeson. Tear bombs were imported from Lumberton. Then three active workers who helped agitate the workers to refuse to accept the wage cut were thrown into jail. They were Clyde Hughes, J. K. Shepherd and Giles Guyton. All are held in jail in default of \$1,000 bond.

Bosses Also Thugs

The bosses at the mill are regular slave drivers. The superintendent, J. R. Smith, recently came from a Georgia lynch gang, and is one of the worst kind of slave drivers, frequently beating men, women and children with his fists when they do not work fast enough. He is backed up by another thug, C. O. Bridger, who is secretary and treasurer of the mills.

Will Organize Better

Although beaten in their first strike, the workers are not looking upon it as a definite defeat. They say they lost only one battle but the war will go on. So they are now beginning to organize right and are seeking and getting advice from the Trade Union Unity League which urges them to join the National Textile Workers' Union and prepare for strike action that will be more effective next time.

SOVIET PEACE POLICY

The Soviet proposals for disarmament and a record of the consistent activities of the Soviet government for peace are made more easily available at this time—on the opening of the disarmament conference in Geneva and the drive of the imperialist powers in the Far East towards another world war and attack upon the Soviet Union—by the special sale of the book, the "Soviet Union and Peace," issued by International Publishers, at a reduced price. In his introduction to the volume Henri Barbusse deals with the struggle of the U.S.S.R. for peace and against the constant war preparations of the Imperialist powers.

The book is available at all workers' book shops.

THREATEN ADES FOR DEFENDING ORPHAN JONES

BALTIMORE, Md.—While awaiting appeal of Yuel Lee (Orphan Jones) case before the Maryland Court of Appeals, Bernard Ades, International Labor Defense attorney, who faced an Eastern shore mob to save the aged Negro from lynch law in a hate-infested court, has been repeatedly threatened and ordered to drop the defense.

The latest move against Ades because of his courageous fight for Lee comes in the form of threats of disbarment from the Baltimore Bar Association. I.L.D. representatives have been told that white "leading citizens" of Maryland, determined on sending Lee to his death, will attempt to bring "unethical conduct" charges against Ades.

If the charges are made, they will in all likelihood be based on talks made by Ades before various public bodies about Baltimore, exposing the frame-up of the Negro farm worker. Ades charges that the state took an active hand in this, planting "evidence" in Lee's room to be used against him at his trial.

New trial is being asked on the ground that the court in Towson seethed with race prejudice and that the jury was improperly chosen. Deliberate exclusion of Negroes from the jury is being made an important issue. Judge Duncan was forced by the I.L.D. to admit that in all his 26 years on the bench he had never selected a single Negro for the jury.

In order to show how easily anybody can be framed by mere "circumstantial evidence" in a case such as this, the I.L.D. lawyers questioned closely a neighbor of the murdered farmer. This man, named Howe, was chief state witness against the Negro worker, having discovered the bodies and claimed to identify certain objects found in Lee's possession as belonging to the victim.

Investigation of this witness proved that he had been engaged in business competition with his neighbor, that he had had a quarrel with the murdered man and had possessed a key to his home. The prosecution was incensed that "the defense counsel should attempt to shift the blame from a Negro to a white gentleman."

THREE SENTENCED TO PRISON

DANVILLE, Feb. 10.—W. G. Binkley, Robert Lee Robinson and Ed Witt were sentenced to sixty days in jail and to pay a fine of \$100 each on charges of "criminal slander" because their bulletin referred to the mill bosses as "big-bellied leeches who never did an honest day's work in their lives," and also said "the bosses have all kinds of schemes to cut our wages and rob us." Aside from the fact that the leaflets told the truth, the conviction ought not to stand, argued Binkley in court, because the police raided the place, confiscated the mimeograph and leaflets before any of them were distributed.

John E. Brown, in whose house the mimeograph was found, was released. The cases of those convicted will be appealed. Bond is set at \$250 in each case, and the arrested remain in jail overnight because they did not have the bond. Efforts are being made to release them on bond and a big campaign is being organized to bring mass pressure against such attempts to crush the growing union movement here and the fight against wage cuts and for unemployment insurance.

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The Murder of Harry Simms a Challenge to the Working Class

Harry Simms, 19-year-old leader and member of the National Executive Committee of the Young Communist League is dead—shot down in cold blood by a professional killer, Arlin Miller, a Brush Creek mine guard, deputized by the sheriff of Knox county, Kentucky, and paid by the coal operators. The hired gun thugs of the mine owners, their hands dripping with the blood of the working class, have added to their long list of murders a gallant and fearless leader of the revolutionary youth of the United States.

Harry Simms, although only 19 years of age, had already in his young life set an example of devotion to his class that can well be emulated by every young worker, as well as every adult worker. The past few years of his short life were exclusively devoted to the revolutionary movement. When the Kentucky strike was being prepared, Harry Simms, district organizer of District No. 17, of the Young Communist League (with headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., where because of the terror, he used the name "Harris Gilbert") asked to be permitted to devote his whole time to aiding in the Kentucky struggle. Realizing fully the necessity of doing everything possible to defeat the starvation and terror program of the mine owners, this valiant young leader of the Young Communist League never for an instant, considered the personal risk he was taking.

Throughout his activity in the strike until a bullet fired by a gun thug, one of the very scum of the earth, laid him low, Harry Simms was always to be found, as a true Communist, doing the most difficult work, facing the enemy where the danger was greatest, taking care of the smallest details as well as meeting the heaviest responsibilities. His work gained him the respect and admiration of thousands of young and adult workers. But his ability and courage as a fighter and leader earned him the undying hatred of the mine owners and their thugs and they determined to get rid of him.

* * * * *

The death of Harry Simms is a heavy loss to and blow against the entire working class of the United States, by depriving us of the services of one who had gone a long way in his short life toward becoming one of the best of revolutionary leaders.

Under the most difficult conditions he had worked in the South. In Birmingham he had taken a leading part in the development of the Scottsboro campaign, in helping in the leadership of the movement in Camp Hill, in tirelessly agitating, educating and organizing among the workers exploited by the steel trust, in organizing and fighting against the Hoover hunger program. It was he who first brought to the attention of the working class the shameful frame-up against Willie Peterson. He devoted much of his time to the study of the special problems of the exploited masses of the South, particularly the intensified lynch terror that takes alternately the form of mob violence and concealed lynching under the cloak of legality as in the Scottsboro case.

As a Communist and as a national leader of the Young Communist League, our dead comrade always tried to show the working class, and especially the working youth, how the boss class that enforces starvation and terror upon us here is also trying to extend its tyranny to other parts of the world, as it is doing at this moment in the Far East. He fully realized that the greatest effort must be made to establish Communist groups in the basic industries, especially the potential war industries of the South. He showed how the capitalists who are trying to overcome their crisis by wage-cuts, by mass starvation, are also working day and night in plots to provoke war against the Soviet Union, the fatherland of the workers of the whole world.

* * * * *

When he threw himself into the miners' struggle in Kentucky and Tennessee, Harry Simms, as a leader of the Young Communist League, showed how the fight of the miners is against the same vulture forces that are preparing a war of intervention against the Soviet Union, the same bandit gang that is aiding in the ravaging of China. He exposed the part played by the government of Kentucky, Tennessee and the United States, as instruments used by the capitalist class to keep the working class in slavery. He fought for unemployment insurance and popularized the demand that all war funds be used to pay insurance for the unemployed. He always tried to expose the real part played by the strike breaking government, which deploys gun thugs who are paid by the mine owners, which crushes free speech, free press, free assemblage and even murders workers who try to exercise these "rights" which the constitution itself upholds in words. He taught the Kentucky miners, who suffer from all sorts of illusions about "the law" that the capitalist state power was never used in the interest of the workers but always in the interest of the bosses. Nowhere was there a more staunch and uncompromising fighter against Jim-crowism, segregation and for full rights for the Negro masses, nowhere was there a better fighter for unity of action of white and Negro workers, than Comrade Simms.

Finally as a true Communist, Harry Simms, our comrade martyred by a gun thug's bullet, always taught the workers what every Communist must know when he enters our Revolutionary ranks—that the one final solution for the murderous system of capitalism is the organization of a powerful CLASS PARTY, a Communist Party, against the whole capitalist class and its state power, that can lead the masses in the revolutionary struggle to crush the dictatorship of capitalism and establish in its place a dictatorship of the working class—a government that exists for the benefit of the workers and farmers.

* * * * *

It was because of these activities of Harry Simms that the gun thugs, agents of John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, Andrew W. Mellon, Henry

Ford, Insull and the lesser capitalists of Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio, who control smaller mines, determined to try to deprive the workers of this youthful leader.

The bosses are rejoicing that they have murdered one of the leaders of the American revolutionary movement. They think this foul act will help them crush the strike and wipe out the National Miners' Union, the Communist Party and the Young Communist League. But they are mistaken. The brutal murder of Harry Simms has not stopped and will not stop the struggle against mass starvation and terror. Instead it will spur every worker, every working woman, every young worker, with a drop of red blood to a more determined struggle against the mine owners whose wealth is wrung out of the very life blood of the miners, their wives and children.

This monstrous murder of a leader of the Young Communist League, this most recent act of a long campaign of frightfulness against the employed and unemployed, organized and unorganized, the white and Negro workers, and especially against the fighting youth, must and shall be answered by strengthening the ranks of the strikers, making stronger and more effective the rank and file strike committees and increasing many fold the fight against the terror. Especially must this butchery be the warning signal that the work of building Workers' Self-Defense Corps in this and every other strike area must be increased so that these cowardly professional murderers with blazing guns in their hands can be crushed and driven out of the region.

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The dead body of Harry Simms gives the lie to those running dogs of the bosses who always try to separate the mass of workers from its vanguard, the Communist Party and the Young Communist League, by saying that Communist leaders who come into strike situations "from the outside" do not risk their lives in the thick of the fight. No Kentucky or Tennessee striker will even again believe that vile slander because with their own eyes they witnessed that brave young fighter make the supreme sacrifice.

While every honest working man, woman and youth deeply respects the gallant youth who died in line of revolutionary duty, we must also remember that the best way to honor his memory is to fight harder in the struggle to which he gave everything; to strengthen the fighting front of the working class. All young workers who ever the memory of Harry Simms should join the ranks of the Young Communist League and help fill the place he left vacant. By such action will the last wish of Harry Simms be carried out—the hope and the conviction that the workers' struggle be carried on to victory and that the shameful system that he despised and fought against be overthrown so that mankind may emerge out of this last slave system the world will ever see.

Defenders of the Hoover Program

A good example of how the "radical" republican and democrat politicians, and the reactionary officers of the American Federation of Labor, help the Hoover government put through its hunger program is to be seen in the forces back of the Costigan-LaFollette bill for the appropriation of \$375,000,000 for unemployment relief purposes. This bill was introduced by the "progressive" politicians and is supported by Wm. Green and other officials of the American Federation of Labor in an effort to stem the rising mass demand for unemployment insurance to be paid by the capitalist and administered by the workers.

Certainly no thinking worker is going to believe that Mr. Green, who has opposed unemployment insurance since the beginning of the present economic crisis in 1929, has suddenly changed front and is now in favor of such a measure.

The Costigan-LaFollette bill is brought forth at this time to try to defeat the movement for real unemployment insurance. The great Hunger March on Washington at the opening of Congress with demands for unemployment insurance, the nation-wide demonstrations of February 4th against the Hoover hunger program, the increasing willingness of unemployed and employed workers in hundreds of cities and towns to fight on the basis of local demands—these are only the outstanding evidences of the increased mass resistance to the Hoover program.

How far will the sum of \$375,000,000 go in relieving hunger as the result of unemployment? There are more than 12,000,000 unemployed who face starvation. Add to these their dependents—their wives, children, aged parents, etc., and the number swells to well over 30,000,000 facing hunger. This number does not include those who are only employed part time at hunger wages, under the "Hoover stagger system," which is a part of the general starvation drive of the capitalist class. Hence it can readily be seen that if all this \$375,000,000 were appropriated and equally divided among the unemployed and those part-time workers existing on starvation rations there would be less than one week's wages for each.

Against such shameful demagogery, such playing with the misery and suffering of the working class, the Unemployed Councils and all militant workers' organizations must increase the mass fight for unemployment insurance. We must show in action that the dirty trickery of LaFollette, Green and the democratic lynch gang of the South cannot side track or even retard the advance of the million-movement against the Hoover hunger program, and by our mass power compel the robber capitalist class to give up some of their stolen wealth so that the unemployed and part time workers can get the equivalent of full wages.

Vern Smith Revises His Pamphlet in Jail

Behind bars in the Pineville, Ky., jail, where he is being held together with other organizers and miners on a charge of criminal syndicalism, Vern Smith, correspondent of the Daily Worker in the Kentucky mine fields, has revised his pamphlet "The Frame-up System," and brought it up to date.

This new and revised edition has just been published by International Pamphlets as Number 8 of the 18 pamphlets which have already appeared on current economic, social and political subjects. The pamphlet

is now available at all workers' book shops, or can be obtained direct from Workers' Library Publishers, Box 148, Sta. D, New York City.

FEWER RAILROAD WORKERS

Interstate Commerce Commission reports that there were 56,192 fewer workers employed on the railroads in November than in October. December and January reports will probably be worse. Faced with general wage cuts and the danger of unemployment and hunger the railroad workers are talking more and more about preparing to strike against wage cuts and to help in the mass struggle for unemployment insurance.

Communist Party Can Get Results

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Listen to this for a moment—read and think. I am a worker, and I want to tell of what I know. I worked hard all summer for \$1.50 a day, and only got part of it. Had bills to meet and when I paid up some of them I did not have a penny. The man I worked for just would not pay me. I was hungry, no shoes, no clothes to wear, and I hunted for work to do but everybody turned me away.

I want everybody to join the Communist Party to help make our conditions better.

Lots of people are dependent on the Charities. I have seen overalls they sent out for 8 and 9 year old boys, and they were too small for a 3-year-old kid. Shoes they give grown girls would not last 2 weeks.

If we would all join the Communist Party we could do something. We are treated worse than the bosses' bird dog, for he will feed his dog. But they just put us on the streets. Not a cent, nothing to eat, nothing to wear. The rent man says: "If you don't pay I will set you out." What has the worker to pay with?

The bosses try to keep the workers from joining the Communist Party. They do all they can to hold us back.

If the money spent for war was given to the workers there would not be so many hungry people. We do not want any war. We want relief.

Let us do our part; let us do something for ourselves. We must be on the job to fight this rotten system—Young and old, white and Negro workers, join together and fight.

—A Colored Worker.

Armed Thugs Hold Up Highway Com.

KNOXVILLE.—Peter E. Blow, Tennessee Highway Commissioner, and a party were held up near Pineville Saturday night by armed thugs and put through an insulting examination before they were permitted to go on their way.

Everyone who passes through the Kentucky strike area, whether or not they are connected with the strike activities, are held up by thugs with high power rifles and all their belongings searched.

The highway commissioner said: "As we approached Pineville, a couple of big men with shiny badges and leveled rifles told us to halt. I haven't got much hair, but what I did have went straight up."

Blow is holding office at the decree of the Horton administration of Tennessee, which protected the sheriff of Claiborne county, Tennessee who kidnapped Joe Weber and Jim Duncan and turned them over to the Harlan thugs three weeks ago. He got a sample of what his own gang is doing to help break the strike.

MILWAUKEE "SOCIALIST" POLICY

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—The capitalist city government of Mayor Daniel Hoan masquerading under the name "socialist" has its police force busy rounding up unemployed and driving them out of town so they will not ask for shelter.

SALVATION ARMY SCAB HERDERS

(By a Worker Correspondent) I once worked in a coal mine, they told me I should go to Kentucky and get a job as some Kentucky miners would not work. I had just heard of the strike and the mine owners' gun thugs and refused to go. I'd rather starve than be a scab.