

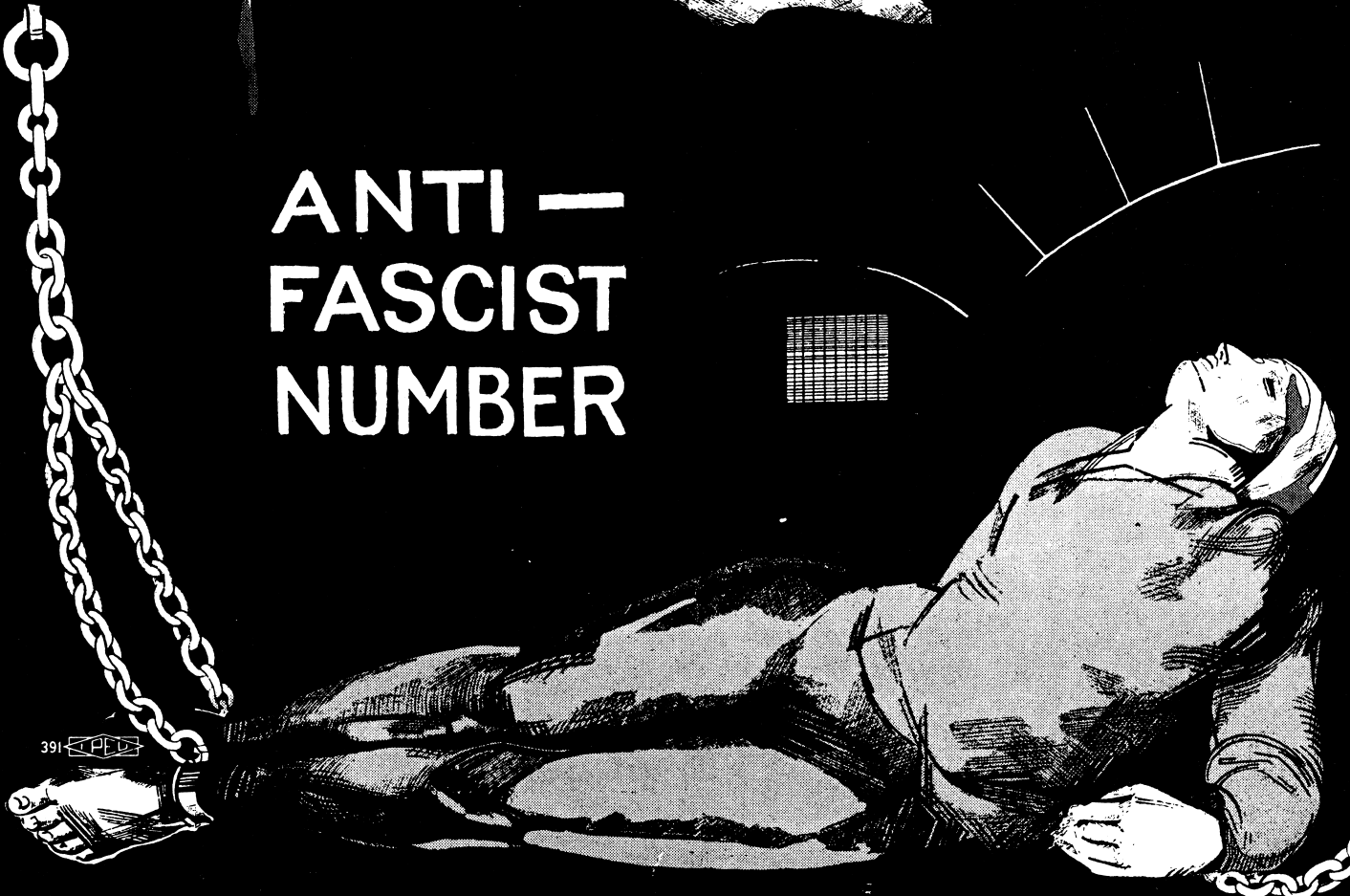
# LABOR DEFENDER

JANUARY 1927

10 CENTS



ANTI —  
FASCIST  
NUMBER



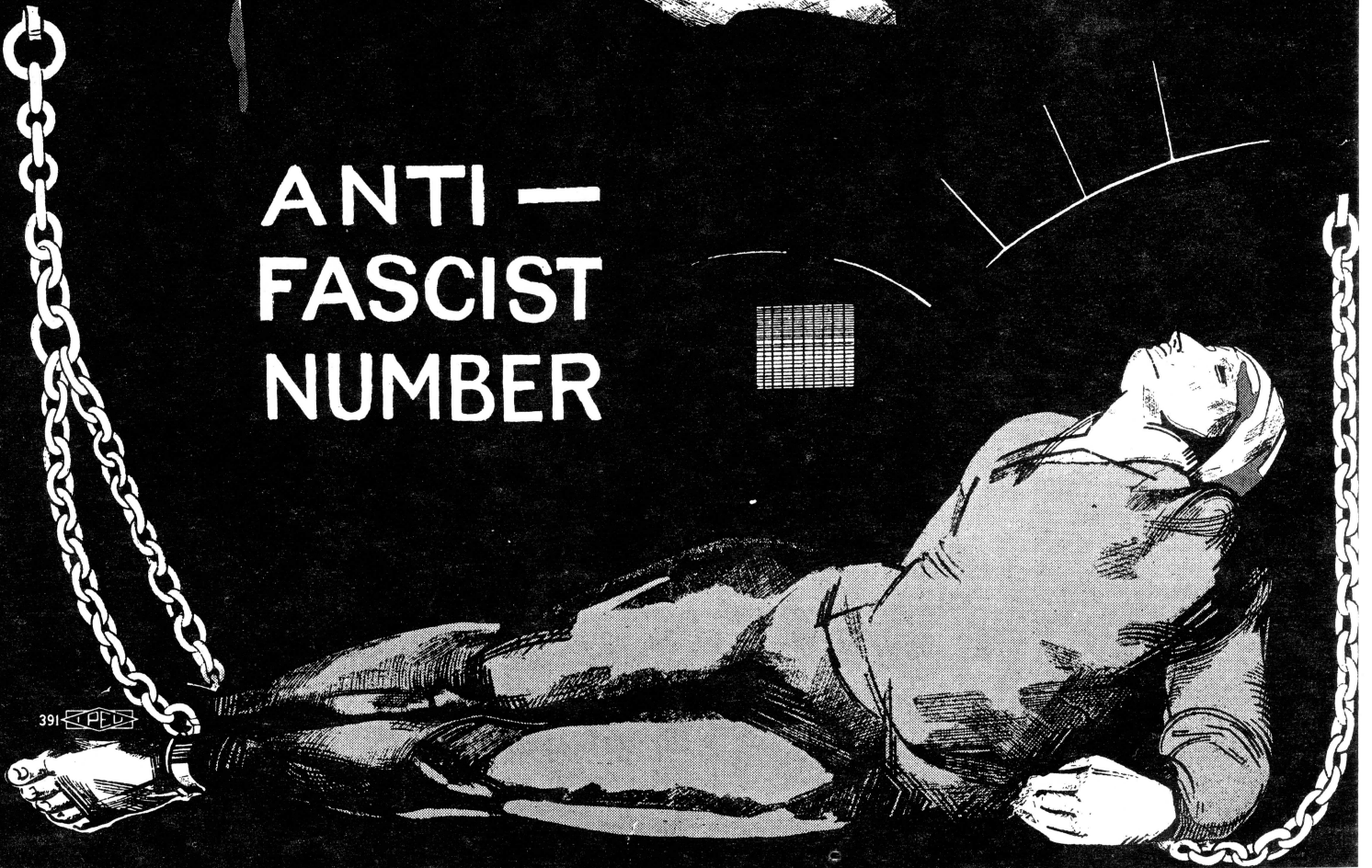
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# Enea Sormenti

By Max Shachtman

I FIRST met Enea Sormenti in the revolutionary youth movement. He had been active in it for many years in Italy, and the countries to which he had been banished. He was one of the most active spirits in the reestablishment of the youth International after its collapse following the beginning of the world war.

Sormenti, whose real name is Vittorio Vidali, is the son of poor parents, and was an avid student of the socialist classics and well known in the socialist youth movement of Trieste from



Mussolini

the age of 17. The Austrian government persecuted him for his activities, and he was twice expelled from school; some period or other of his early life was spent in prison.

It was under Italian control of Trieste that the real persecution commenced. Sormenti was arrested scores of times, carried from one prison to another, tortured, condemned to imprisonment, and wounded by fascists in the frequent street encounters that took place at the time. He was systematically hunted, in school and at work, at one time sentenced to death. The notorious squadron in Casal di Monferrato wounded him severely in the head.

His father was arrested as a hostage, and made to serve four months in prison. His mother died, curiously, just a year before Sormenti was made to appear at Ellis Island for a hearing on his deportation.

The persecutions of fascism forced him into exile in Austria, and later, in Checko-Slovakia, Germany and northern Africa. In Germany he was arrested, sentenced, interned but he finally escaped from a certain death of starva-

tion in the concentration camps of northern Prussia. He had been interned by the Germans at the request of the Italian government.

Driven from pillar to post on the continent, he had gone to the Italian colonies of northern Africa to carry on anti-militarist propaganda there among the Italian soldiers at the risk, every moment, of his liberty and life.

Sormenti finally left the continent for America. Without a minute's rest, he entered here the movement with which he had worked in Europe. For some two years he toured the country almost without interruption save for his intense work at the office of the Italian section of the Workers Party. He became secretary of the section's bureau, and editor of its official organ, *Il Lavoratore*. In all of his activities, and in his writings, he maintained an unbroken line of principled policy, regardless of the sympathies or antipathies he aroused.

It was particularly in his activities against Fascism, in the Anti-Fascist Alliance of North America, that he gained his greatest popularity among the Italian workers of this country. The countless anti-Fascist meetings which he addressed, and the branches of the Alliance which he organized, brought him to the forefront of the Italian labor movement in America. The workers learned to know him, by his sharp and merciless tongue, and by his fearless personal conduct. Many times he organized or entered meetings in which he faced gangs of fascist assassins, for he has never flinched from any kind of a fight, as his scars will show.

He continued his work also in the Lega Profughi d'Italia, (League for Italian Refugees), which owes a great deal to his incessant energy. In this league were organized the hundreds of Italian workers who were forced to flee from the butchery of Fascism. Sormenti put into this work of organizing the refugees and exposing the frightful terror of Fascism in Italy and in the United States, all his enthusiasm and spirit.

It is because of his relentless struggle against Fascism that he was seized by the agents of Mussolini in the United States, the department of labor of Mr. John W. Davis, and proposed for deportation to Italy. To be returned to Italy now, with Mussolini tightening the screws of torture and suppression, is to deliver Sormenti to the

slaughter house. Davis knew this.

Sormenti will not be surprised at the action of the American authorities. He has experienced the same treatment at the hands of the reactionary governments of four nations. He has no illusions about the extent to which the officials of the United States adhere to the tradition of the right of asylum to political refugees. Sormenti knows that only the workers and progressives of the country will passionately defend this tradition, and tear him safe from the dripping claws of Fascism.

His splendid struggle against the



Sormenti

Fascisti will bring him the solidarity of the American workers. They will make his cause their cause and halt the sinister hand of John W. Davis.

## The Labor Defender

January, 1927

Vol. II. No. 1.

Published Monthly by the International Labor Defense

23 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Ill.

MAX SHACHTMAN, Editor.

GEORGE MAURER, Bus. Mgr.

Subscription—\$1.00 a Year.

Entered as second class matter December 10, 1925, at the postoffice at Chicago, Illinois under the act of March 3, 1878:

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# The Fascist Menace in the United States of America

By Carlo Tresca



It is a well-known fact by now among all conscious workers that Fascism is the most bestial and murderous of the bourgeois Reactions. The aim of Fascism is that of reducing the proletariat to the most abject form of slavery, and thus ensure to the capitalist class large and generous profits.

In order to achieve power and to serve as a vendetta for the plutocracy, who, at the period of the occupation of the factories, had felt itself nearing the end of its domination,

along a blind alley: Thousands of Italians have been exiled, from the most humble worker to the most cultured university professor.

The story of the crimes committed by Fascism is such that when compared with those of the inquisition of Rome under the popes it would put to nothing the dark and gloomy night which was the Middle Ages.

The methods of Fascism are only the use of the poignard and brutal beatings of the bodies of men, women and children. From incendiarism in all of the chambers of labor to the



Carlo Tresca

iodines; from the cutting of their hair and beards to rubbing soot upon their faces; from lynching to legal hanging; from violent death of the persecuted to slow, painful torture, immersing them into blood and filth—these have never bothered their conscience.

At the thought of the horrible crimes committed by Fascism, recorded history of the ignominy of the capitalist class, the blood beats violently in the temples, the heart shrinks with pain, for shame. We, the Italian proletarians, feel dishonored before the civilized world. In Italy all liberty is dead. The opposition press is suppressed. Working class organizations are dissolved; all meetings of citizens who have a view different from that professed by the assassins who are at the head of the government, are prohibited. Ostracized and brought face to face with hunger, the school teachers, doctors and lawyers who are not Fascists, make it impossible for workers to find jobs unless they are affiliated to Fascist unions which are like a straight jacket applied to the workers of Italy to suppress their revolutionary impetuosity, and to numb their conscience. Italy is an armed camp.



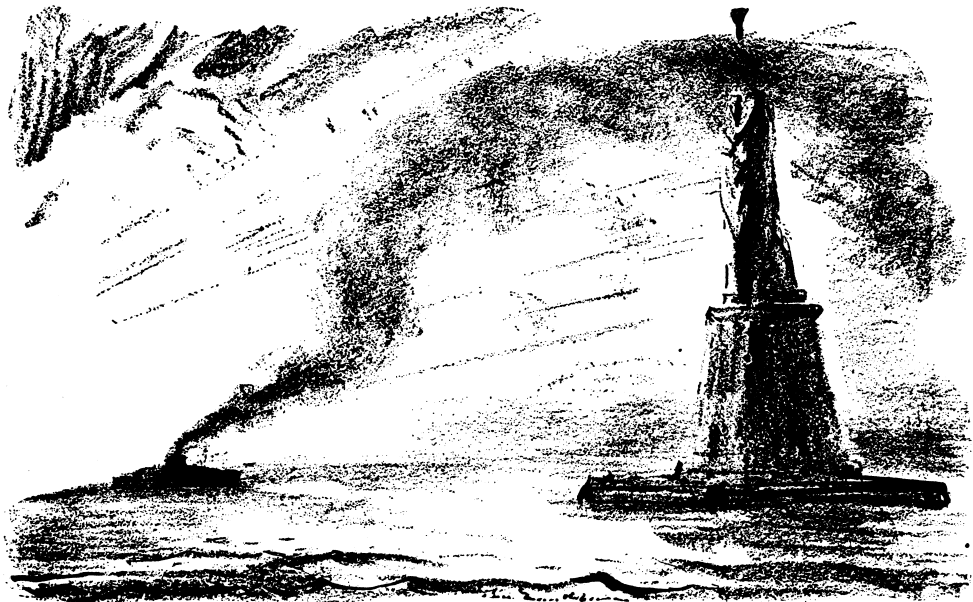
After a Fascist Raid on a Labor Hall

and to disarm and weaken the people, Fascism has sown death in all the streets of Italy, has clothed in mourning thousands upon thousands of mothers, has rendered orphans thousands upon thousands of children, and has generally proceeded

destruction of all co-operatives, from pistol shots in cold blood on the breasts of the harmless to the torture of the numerous political prisoners, from the administration of castor oil to the washing of their stomachs with strong doses of



Left and Right: Fascist Leaders. Center; Ruins of a Raided Labor Paper



By Bordman Robinson.

*Davis Sends a Shipment to Mussolini*



*A Parade of the Italian Assassins*

Fascist Italy drips with red from the blood of the proletarian, made to flow in rivulets from all the victims of this band of brigands paid by the bourgeoisie which is neither backward nor has any remorse for its thirst for power and lucre.

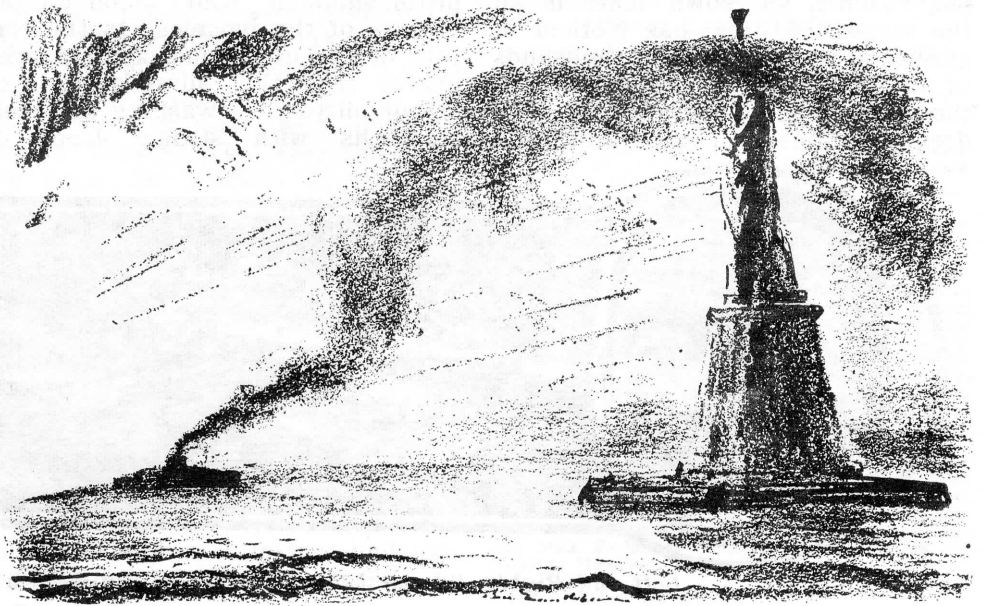
Fascist Italy is a perennial menace to the peace of all peoples. Fascism seeks to hide the stilleto which is its armor and that it wields as a challenge to all who oppose it, and immerses itself into a big swamp of lies. Fascism with its money stolen from the miserable, beaten and humiliated people of Italy seeks to present itself to the workers of the United States by means of a lying and insidious propaganda under the guise of a liberating revolutionary movement.

But what the workers of the United States do not perhaps know and should know is the fact that the Fascist methods of violence and murder are practiced not only on the beautiful soil of Italy, on that peninsula which the sea surrounds and the Alps cross, but also here in America under the eyes of the complacent American authorities, the Fascisti operate. The emissaries of Mussolini carry on their infamous activities. The consulates of Italy in the United States are spy nests. Spies paid by Mussolini are everywhere, and are constantly on the lookout for political refugees.

We have here in the United States thousands of Italian workers who have escaped from death, bearing the marks of the most subtle violence on their bodies, asking for some rest, for some peace in the republic of Washington and Lincoln which vaunts itself upon being hospitable to all exiles, but which, as in the case of Sormenti, has placed itself in the services of the tyrant of



*Wrecked by Fascisti*



By Bordman Robinson.

*Davis Sends a Shipment to Mussolini*

Rome by deporting them when denounced by the emissaries of Mussolini. They are seized by their agents to be returned to Italy where death awaits them.

The Sormenti case is a revelation of the menace that surrounds all political refugees. It is a clear indication of the deplorable concubinage between the authorities of Washington and Rome. But that is not all. The Fascist revolver operates also in America. Guiseppe di Maio, an anti-Fascist, after a calm discussion on Fascism and Mussolini with a follower of the brigand who commands from Rome, was killed by revolver shot which split his heart. The assassin, brought before the jurors, was defended by a notable lawyer, ex-assistant district attorney, Warbasse. He was absolved! Who paid the expense for the defense? Giovanni Foddai, an anti-Fascist, on his way home late at night, in May, 1926, at Elizabeth, N. J., was killed at the door of his home by three revolver shots in the back from a Fascist who was arrested but who has not been and probably never will be tried. David Zambasi, an anti-Fascist miner, was killed August 30, 1926, at Steubenville, Ohio, by a Fascist with whom he had been engaged in a heated discussion over question of ideas. These are our dead. Here in the republic of Jefferson! These are the victims of Italian Fascism on American soil.

Then there are those who have been clubbed. In Bronx, New York, the Fascisti have formed their own organization which is called Fascio Mario Sonzini and protected as they are by the priest in the nearby church, he also a Fascist, and sure of the complacency of the police to whom were denounced their actions and against whom no measures have been taken, organized themselves in squads of ten or twenty and armed

with clubs, go about in that section, meet an unarmed and lone anti-Fascist, club him until they draw blood.

Many comrades, members of the Anti-Fascist Alliance, organized in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, or in the International Ladies' Garment Workers, socialists, communists or anarchists, have been victims of the actions of these squads of Fascists in New York. The anti-Fascist quarters of Chrystie street in New York, and Corona, Long Island, were devastated several nights ago by Fascisti. At Uniontown, New Jersey, Comrade Buratti had to submit to an ambush on the part of one Fascist who drew him

with a polite manner into a shop conducted by him, assaulted him with a club, striking him many times and breaking his right arm. Similar incidents could be enumerated for pages and pages of this noble and generous *Labor Defender*, which is for us as a banner of faith and hope.

The cause of Enea Sormenti, which is the cause of liberty of all people, is defended by the right of asylum to all those who struggle for an idea. The soldiers of labor, seeking for asylum from the tyranny that infests the by-ways of Europe, have been banned throughout the world. The cause of Enea Sormenti, which is the cause of all the oppress-

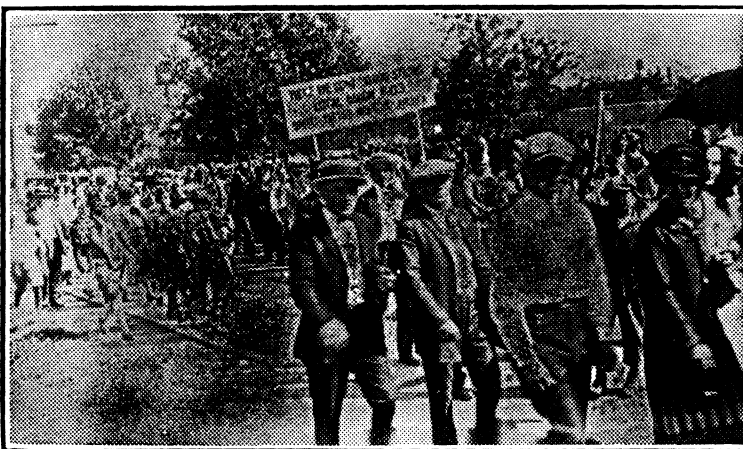
ed of the world must serve first of all, above all to tear the long arm of Mussolini off this valorous youth and inflexible militant.

Oppressed of the world, lift your robust arms! Threaten the tyrant! Shout loudly to the face of all the oppressors and against their violence and oppression!

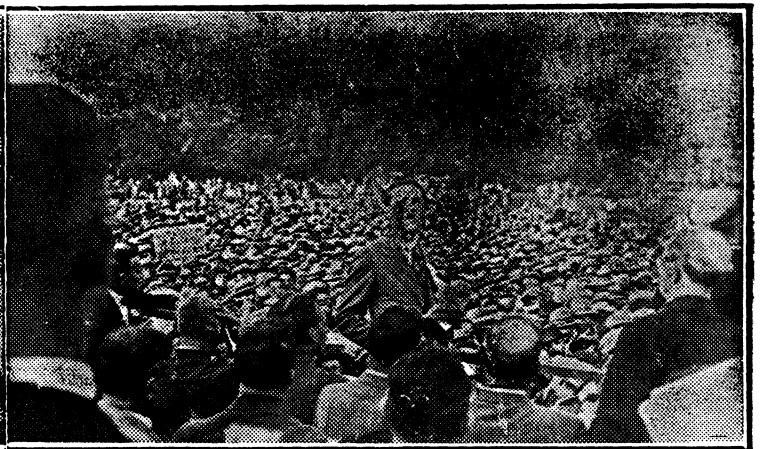
Close your ranks and take up again the march for the conquest of all our rights!

For the liberty of Enea Sormenti! For the destruction of the Fascist regime! As one man let us lift ourselves, proletarians of the world, and hopefully march towards our end!

## Greasing the Rails for Passaic Strikers



*The Victorious March of the Strikers*



*A Strikers' Meeting: Gus Deak Speaking.*

**O**NE day last September residents of the Passaic textile strike district read startling headlines in their afternoon newspapers. "Bombers Are Arrested—Two Caught Just After They Had Hurlled Missile," flared great black words in the *Passaic Daily News*.

And so began another big offensive campaign of the police and courts of the textile district against the strikers. The daily sniping by means of picket line arrests and warrants issued against strikers on the slightest complaint of strike-breaking workers was not effective enough. Enemies of the strikers looked for an opportunity to attack on a bigger scale.

They found it. Today as a result, there are eleven men in the Passaic and Bergen county jails, who have been waiting since their capture the week of September 20 for a trial. They are still waiting and they may have to wait a good while longer, if the labor movement does not grasp their predicament soon and come to their rescue.

The facts of the case are few. A series of four or five explosions scattered over several months are said to have disturbed the sleep of a few residents

### By Hollace Ransdell

of Garfield, Clifton and Passaic. These explosions made a noise. That is the worst that can be said of them. The noise was produced by the exploding of certain fire-crackers, often used in the district at Italian festivals. The police nick-named these fire-crackers "bombs" and set out to prove that the strikers were guilty of some blood-thirsty attempts upon the lives of innocent men, women and children by bombing their homes at night. The fact that not a soul was ever hurt at any time, they ignored.

Suddenly one night after one of these harmless explosions, the police pounced upon several strikers whom they claim were in the vicinity when a fire-cracker went off. Two men were arrested and given some of the clubbing for which the Passaic textile district police are famous. The next morning detectives and police officers set out on a wholesale raid. Before seven o'clock they had broken down the door of another striker, ordered him out of bed and taken him to jail. In a short time, blackjacking right and left, they had twenty or more locked up. Eleven are

still being held.

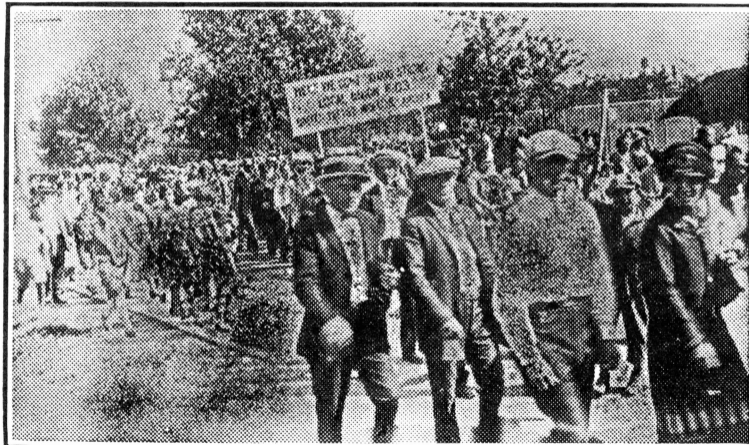
After four days the jail authorities permitted the wives of the prisoners to talk to with their husbands a minute or two. It was a said visit. The men told of the third degree they had been given. Faces were still swollen and eyes black and blue. Several had teeth knocked out. One was knocked down and kicked until three ribs were broken. Another was handcuffed to a chair and beaten with a lead pipe. These facts and many other similar ones, the wives of the prisoners brought back to strike headquarters.

The third month of the imprisonment of these eleven men is well on its way, yet they have had no trial yet. Five of them have not even been indicted as far as the prosecution has seen fit to make public. It has been rumored that they have been indicted secretly on the charges made against them, but they have not been arraigned on the indictment.

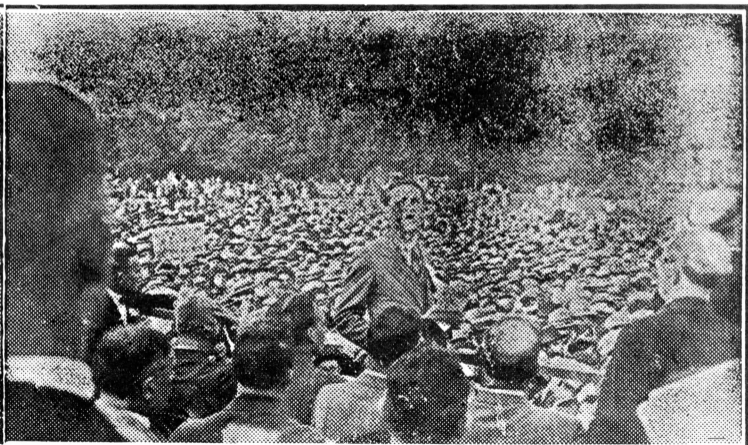
The collective bail on which the eleven are held amounts to \$290,000. Originally it was \$455,000, but the reduction means nothing. It is no more possible for the union to raise one than

*(Continued on page 15)*

# Greasing the Rails for Passaic Strikers



*The Victorious March of the Strikers*



*A Strikers' Meeting: Gus Deak Speaking.*



# Who Can Save Sacco and Vanzetti?

**T**HE Sacco-Vanzetti case is at a turning point. Legally speaking, it now rests on another appeal to the Massachusetts state supreme court from the latest decision of Judge Thayer refusing a new trial. But speaking from a more fundamental standpoint, that is, from the standpoint of the class struggle, the issue really hangs on developments taking place within the Sacco-Vanzetti movement which embraces many workers of various views.

Within this movement lately a certain indecision and hesitation has been noticeable. This by no means signifies a change in the attitude of the masses toward Sacco and Vanzetti. Their faith and solidarity remain unshaken. The waiting and uncertainty which characterize the movement at the present time are merely the reflection of a serious conflict over policy and methods of conducting the fight.

The Sacco-Vanzetti case is no private monopoly, but an issue of the class struggle in which the decisive word will be spoken by the masses who have made this fight their own. It is therefore, necessary to discuss openly the conflicting policies which are bound up with different objectives.

One policy is the policy of the class struggle. It puts the center of gravity in the protest movement of the workers of America and the world. It puts all faith in the power of the masses and no faith whatever in the justice of the courts. While favoring all possible legal proceedings, it calls for agitation, publicity, demonstrations—organized protest on a national and international scale. It calls for unity and solidarity of all workers on this burning issue, regardless of conflicting views on other questions. This is what has prevented the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti so far. Its goal is nothing less than their triumphant vindication and liberation.

The other policy is the policy of "respectability", of the "soft pedal" and of ridiculous illusions about "justice" from the courts of the enemy. It relies mainly on legal proceedings. It seeks to blur the issue of the class struggle. It shrinks from the "vulgar and noisy" demonstrations of the militant workers and throws the mud of slander on them. It tries to represent the martyrdom of Sacco and Vanzetti as an "unfortunate" error which can be rectified by the "right" people proceeding in the "right" way. The objective of this policy is a whitewash of the

By James P. Cannon

courts of Massachusetts and "clemency" for Sacco and Vanzetti in the form of a commutation to life imprisonment for a crime of which the world knows they are innocent.

The conscious proletarian elements with whom we identify ourselves unconditionally, are for the first policy. The bourgeois elements, and those influenced by them, are for the second.

The corruption and class bias of

the courts of Massachusetts are already proved to the hilt. A division of the proletarian forces will only facilitate their murderous plans. They are determined to have the blood of Sacco and Vanzetti.

Only the organized and united protest movement of the masses can save them. In this movement the class conscious workers—the militants—are the driving force. Let those who hamper this movement or endanger its unity pause lest they unconsciously become the executioners of Sacco and Vanzetti.

## A Reply to an Infamous Slander

**I**N reply to slanderous accusations in regard to the handling of funds by the International Labor Defense in connection with the Sacco-Vanzetti case, we submit the following statement of facts which are matters of record.

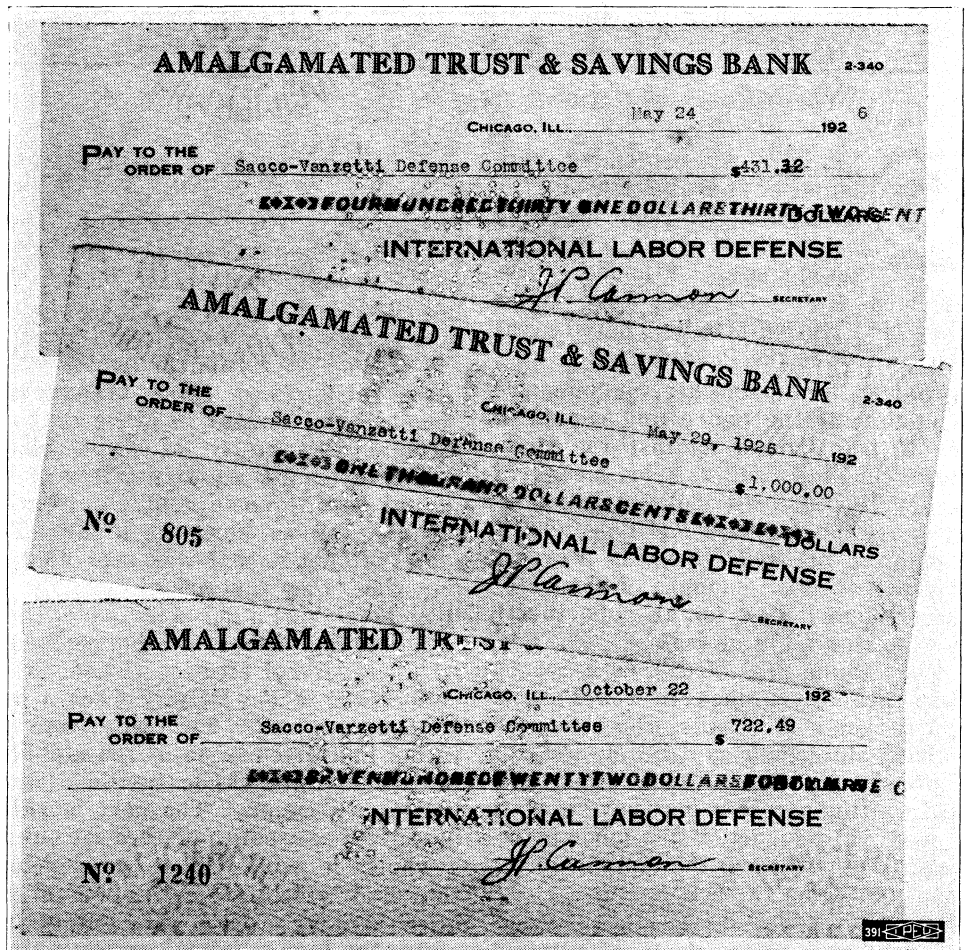
1. The total amount of contributions received by the International Labor Defense for the Sacco-Vanzetti case is \$2,153.81.
2. Checks for the full amount were sent to the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee at Boston on the following dates:

May 24th .....	\$ 431.32
May 29th .....	1,000.00
Oct. 21st .....	722.49

Total ..... \$2,153.81

3. With the last check mailed October 21st, a complete itemized list of the contributions was also sent to the Boston Committee.

4. All expenses of the agitational campaign conducted in behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti have been borne entirely by the I. L. D. and no part of it has been deducted



Photograph of Some Checks Sent by I. L. D. to Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee by Whose Treasurer They are Endorsed on the Back.

from the contributions received for the case.

5. The I. L. D. is not appealing for funds in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. Already last August we issued a public statement (published also in the September Labor Defender) pointing out that "the I. L. D. is not making a general appeal for funds for the defense of Sacco and Vanzetti, as the legal defense is being handled by the Sacco-Van-

zetti Defense Committee in Boston and all funds intended to help defray legal expenses should be sent to that Committee." The contributions which have come to our office in the course of campaign, as above noted, were forwarded to the Committee in Boston.

6. While defending ourselves against all slanderous accusations, the I. L. D. now, as

always, stands for the unity of all workers in the fight for Sacco and Vanzetti, regardless of all other differences. This united movement is their sole protection. If such elements as the Jewish Daily Forward, who are willing to gamble with the lives of Sacco and Vanzetti for partisan and factional purposes, succeed in disrupting this united movement, the blood of Sacco and Vanzetti will be upon their heads.

# The State of Emergency in Italy

By G. Aquila

THE events of recent days in Italy indicate that the Mussolini government and the Fascist regime have now come to a seriously critical moment.

The present situation is the result of two factors—partly parallel and partly intersecting: on the one hand, the strengthening of the anti-Fascist feeling among the workers, the greater part of the petty-bourgeoisie of town and country, the army officers' corps, etc., on the other hand, the strengthening of the opposition tendencies in the Fascist camp itself against the big bourgeois policy of Mussolini and of the Fascist government. In order to keep down the threatening anti-Fascist forces Mussolini finds himself compelled to make very extensive concessions to the opposition forces of the petty-bourgeoisie within his own camp.

The most important measures for "the safe-guarding of the regime" are as follows:

1. Dissolution of all non-Fascist parties, unions and associations.

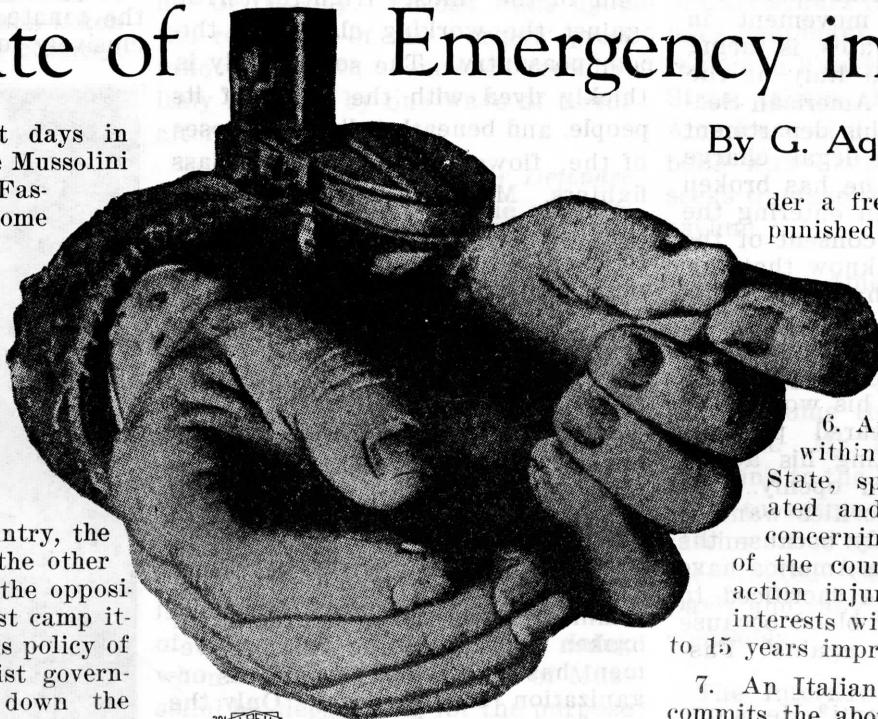
2. Suppression of the entire non-Fascist press.

3. Introduction of compulsory internment of "all those who have committed acts calculated to overthrow the social, economic or national constitution of the State, to endanger the security and to frustrate and hinder the activity of the State administration, as also those who declare their intention to do anything of the kind. (!)

4. Formation of a Fascist political police service at every headquarter-station of the Fascist militia.

5. Declaration of invalidity in regard to all passports, for abroad: severe punishment for anybody attempting to quit the country without a passport and for those who give assistance in such an attempt; obligation to resort to use of arms to prevent anybody from crossing the frontier without a permit.

In addition to these "measures," the so-called "Law for the Protection of the State" was decided upon by the



The Appeal of Italian Labor

Ministerial Council on November 5th; in short, the law introduces capital punishment. The most important provisions of this law are:

1. Capital punishment for those who make an attempt upon the life, person or personal liberty of the King or his regents, of the Queen, the Heir Apparent or of the Prime Minister.

2. Capital punishment for those who commit an act calculated to subject the State to dependence upon foreign countries (!) or to threaten the independence of the State; for those who betray the political or military secrets concerning the security of the State and who possess themselves of such secrets.

3. Capital punishment for those who commit acts calculated to incite the citizens to armed insurrection against the constitution of the State; for those who take part in an insurrection; and for those who incite to civil war.

4. Conspiracy for purposes of any of the abovementioned "crimes" will be punished with 15 to 30 years' imprisonment; defense of them in the press, with 5 to 15 years' imprisonment.

5. The resuscitation of parties, unions and associations, which have been dissolved, even though carried out un-

der a fresh name (!) will be punished with imprisonment up to 10 years. The members of such organizations will be punished with imprisonment up to 5 years.

6. An Italian citizen, who, within the territory of the State, spreads false, exaggerated and tendentious reports concerning the interior position of the country or develops any action injurious to the national interests will be punished with 5 to 15 years imprisonment.

7. An Italian or a foreigner who commits the abovementioned "crimes" abroad, will be condemned by the Italian courts in *contumaciam* (in his absence).

## The Flynn Tour for I.L.D.

THE meetings thus far held with Comrade Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, national chairman of International Labor Defense, have been very successful and resulted in an intensification of defense activities in all the cities visited and a broader understanding of the work of I. L. D. among workers. Her dates for the coming period are as follows:

### DEFINITELY ARRANGED

Minneapolis	Jan. 11th
Rochester	Jan. 12th
St. Paul	Jan. 13th
Chisholm	Jan. 14th
Superior	Jan. 15th
Ironwood, Mich.	Jan. 17th
Ishpeming, Mich.	Jan. 19th

### TENTATIVELY ARRANGED

Winnipeg, Canada	Jan. 22nd
Gary, Ind.	Jan. 26th
E. Chicago, Ind.	Jan. 27th
South Bend, Ind.	Jan. 28th
Indiana Harbor, Ind.	Jan. 29th
Milwaukee, Wis.	Feb. 1st
Madison, Wis.	Feb. 1st
Rockford, Ill.	Feb. 2nd
Kenosha, Wis.	Feb. 3rd
Southern Illinois	Feb. 5th to 15th

Requests have also been made by many other cities.

All locals of I. L. D., and any other organization desiring to have Comrade Flynn speak on her way east, should communicate immediately for dates with the National Office of I. L. D., 23 S. Lincoln St., Chicago, Illinois.

# The Sormenti Case: A Challenge to American Labor

By James P. Cannon

**E**NEA SORMENTI, one of the outstanding leaders of the anti-Fascist movement in the United States, is facing deportation to Italy at the hands of the American Secretary of Labor and his department at Washington. The legal charge against him is that he has broken the law of the land in entering the country without the consent of the authorities. But we know that this is not the reason why he is being held for deportation. Comrade Sormenti has been in this country for years and during the entire period he made no secret of his work and movements but appeared publicly, everywhere, prosecuting his activities without fear and openly. We realize that the authorities want to ship Sormenti to Italy because the agents of Mussolini in America have demanded that he be sacrificed to the Fascist thirst for blood because of his splendid work against Fascism.

Who is Enea Sormenti? He is one of those many fighters whose ranks have been so ruthlessly depleted by the terrorism of Mussolini, one of those young men who grew in the movement in the period of the war and the subsequent revolutions. Inspired with an unbroken devotion to the working class cause and a hatred for its oppressors, he has seen the tragic fate of the Italian labor movement under Fascism. With thousands of his Italian comrades, he fought as courageously and spiritedly at the moment of defeat as at the moment of victory. He is one of that heroic band of Italian refugees who are carrying the exposure of the Mussolini murder regime before the world.

The Italian workers in the United States who know Sormenti, and there are thousands of these, admire and follow him because of his tested devotion to the struggle. They have found in him one of the bitterest foes of the Fascist hydra. They know of his incessant activities in building the Anti-Fascist Alliance of North America and the League for Italian Refugees. They are proud to say of him that he has earned the most violent hatred of the Fascisti in Italy and the United States.

Why do Sormenti and his comrades carry on such a bitter struggle against Fascist Italy? Because

Italy under Fascism is the embodiment of the most frightful terror against the working class and the poor peasantry. The soil of Italy is thickly dyed with the blood of its people, and beneath it lie the corpses of the flower of its working class fighters. Mussolini permits no relief organization for political prisoners to exist, nor does he allow an investigation as to their number or condition. But it is common knowledge that tens of thousands of them fill the prisons of Fascism to bursting.

Who does not know the bloody record of Fascism? Everyone is acquainted with it. Under Fascism in Italy, the life of the workers has become a nightmare of terror. Their homes have been destroyed. Their families have been murdered or broken up. The trade union movement has been wiped out and its organization made illegal. Only the spurious, emasculated "Fascist labor unions" which are the instruments of the Fascist bosses, are permitted to exist. The splendid co-operative movement of the Italian workers has been demolished. Not only the homes of the workers, but their trade union and labor centers as well have been sacked and burned down. Their press has been made illegal, raided and destroyed; their political organizations smashed or driven underground. Thousands of the best representatives of the Italian working class have been brutally murdered and imprisoned for long terms solely because of their devotion to the cause of labor. The hours of labor have been increased by Fascist ukase. Wages have fallen, while the cost of living has gone up. No strikes for improved conditions are permitted under Mussolini's rule, and the workers know the frightful penalties that await them if they dare to express their organized power—or their opinions.

Now, fearful of the great and suppressed power that is inherent in the working class, Mussolini has taken the most desperate measures to remove all possibilities of revolt and to insure his tottering regime. New repressive laws have been passed by the Fascist Chamber of Deputies—that mockery of representative government in its fullest Fascist bloom.

No opposition party is permitted to occupy seats in the Chamber or in the senate. These are reserved exclusively for the Fascisti. Mussolini

personally now appoints half of the members. A new series of arrests of workers and labor leaders has taken place in every center of the country.

Attacks upon the workers are the order of the day. Fascist raids upon the remnants of the workers' press take place with renewed ferocity. Italy is swept by one wave of terror after another.

In this issue of the *Labor Defender* there is a summary of the new repressive laws. But the cold printed word can only weakly convey the horrors that have been intensified by these laws in Italy. Not since the dark days of Torquemada has there been such a systematically terrible extermination of those in the slightest way opposed to the powers as today under Fascism.

What, then, is Mr. James J. Davis, the Secretary of Labor, doing when he deports Sormenti into the hands of Mussolini? What is Davis doing when he puts at the service of Mussolini his department for the purpose of ferretting out the Italian refugees, arresting them and shipping them back?

*Davis is acting as the bloodhound for Italian Fascism.*

Around his neck is the leash of the blackshirts. The foes of Fascism who have slipped through the bloody claws of Mussolini and escaped to the United States in the hope of asylum are being retrieved for Fascism by the American Department of Labor and its secretary, Davis. Faithful servitor of the Italian Caesar he is rendering unto him that which is his by right of the dagger and bludgeon.

Davis may earn his keep with Mussolini, but he is violating a cherished American tradition. It is the tradition of the right of asylum to political refugees who have fled from tyranny and murder. In former days, the people of America were proud to receive on their shores the revolutionaries of Europe hunted by Kaiser and Czar. Many of these rebels, like Carl Schurz, became integral parts of American political life, honored and respected by all. This tradition has become one of America's proudest possessions.

It is a long time from the days of Carl Schurz to the days of Mussolini's lieutenant, Davis. The Fascist regime in Italy is propped up by Wall Street dollars. Reaction is strong in America, and it recognizes its blood-bond with dictatorship in Italy. It seeks to erase this great tradition of asylum.

But the American workers and progressives, who, like those in every other part of the world, have turned away horrified by the Fascist regime, have become the defenders of this tradition. Mr. Davis and his tribe may sink to the lowest depths of servility to accommodate the Italian assassins. But the labor movement of the United States will repudiate Davis and rally to Sormenti and his comrades.

The International Labor Defense has already issued a call to action, for the danger is imminent. For Sormenti to be deported to Italy is to send him to the gallows and worse. He is a man marked by Fascism, and Davis knows this well. We know, too, that the murderer of the Chigi Palace gloats in anticipation of his victims writhing in torture or still in death.

But the workers of the United States will stay the hand of Mussolini and Davis. They have done this before, when, in 1907, their great protest halted the deportation of the Russian radical, Rudowsky, to the hangmen of the Czar. They must now build a living wall of defense around Sormenti and his comrades and staunchly oppose his planned assassination. The clutching hand of Mussolini must not be allowed to descend upon our comrade, for he is fighting also the battle of American labor which has so severely denounced Fascism.

The workers of America will join in this great movement to defend the right of asylum to political refugees. They will not allow America to become a Fascist trap.



Enea Sormenti

# The Fort Leavenworth General Strike of Prisoners

*An Experiment in the Radical  
Guidance of Mass Discontent*

By Carl Haessler

*Drawings by Maurice Becker*

THE 3,700 men constituting the prison population of Ft. Leavenworth in January 1918 will probably remember that month as one of the most profoundly stirring of their lives. Far more than Woodrow Wilson's hollow call to youth to save a democracy owned body and soul by the Morgan bankers, more even than the spectacle of the world at war, did the almost unanimous mass rising in America's largest military prison make clear to its participants the meaning of unified joint action. Not every convict took part in the general strike that brought the war department of the strongest nation on earth to its knees. But those who scabbed will also remember the surging of overwhelming cooperative action that all but engulfed them too.

Perhaps 500 men, mostly white-collar jobholders and short timers, continued at their desks and flunkey tasks or volunteered to man the engine room, the ice machine and some of the essential services. These men feared to return at night to their cells where the strikers were awaiting them. They were housed in the prison auditorium on emergency beds or on the floor with

a couple of blankets apiece in the dead of the Kansas winter. One was so cold that he slept in the sacramental robes which the Roman Catholic priest stored in a closet between his Sunday visits from town. The sacrilege was discovered but forgiven. Even the church did its bit toward strikebreaking.

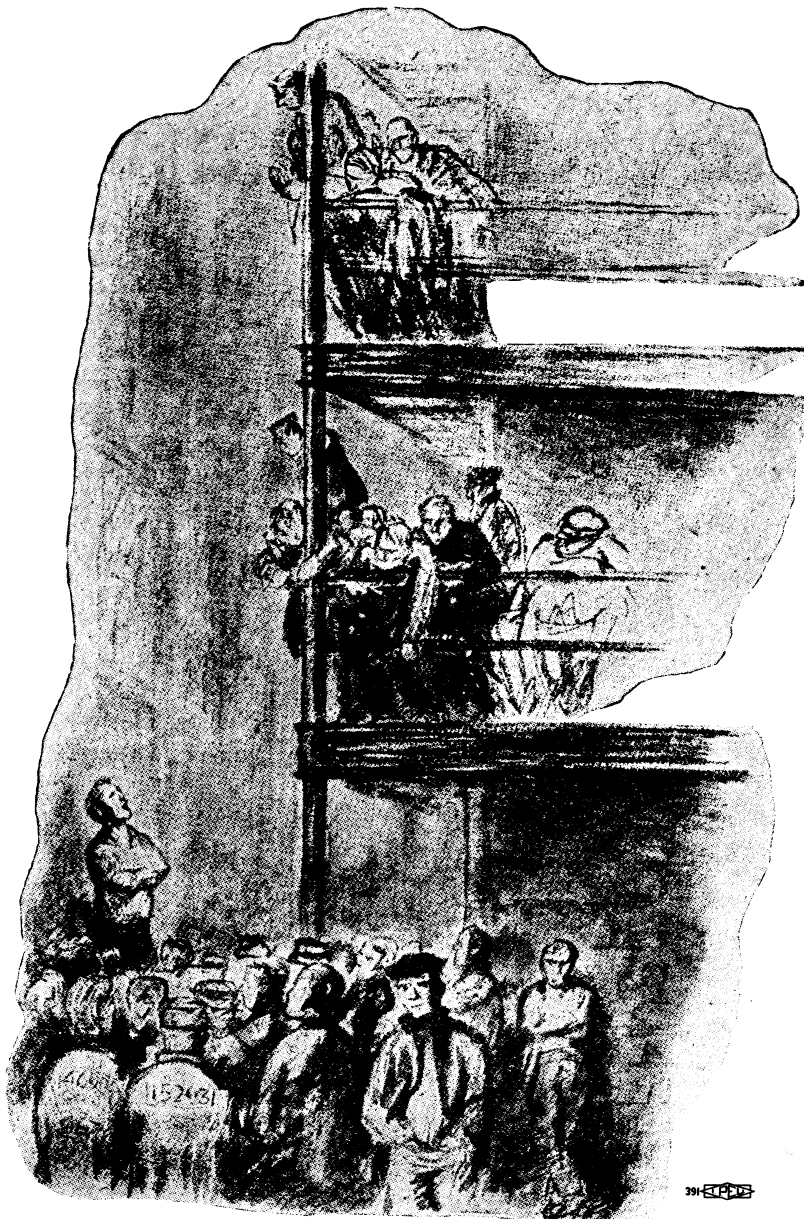
The 3,200 men on strike remained in the cell houses except those elected to the strike committee that conferred with the commandant at his request. The strikers entertained themselves for the three or four days of the strike by chess and checker games, wrestling matches, swapping stories, listening to the reports of their committeemen and debating them, improvising lecture courses and in sleep. Meals were served regularly by the prison administration. The food was of better quality than before the outbreak of the strike and there was more of it. High spirits were the rule. The prisoners felt that they were on the way to victory just as the administration knew it had been beaten.

How was this feeling brought about?

It is an interesting experiment in the solidarity of mobilizing and directing mass discontent. A small but highly organized and highly conscious body of prisoners led the great majority almost without the knowledge of anybody but the leaders and their opponents, the military command of the prison. This small body of leaders were the political objectors to the Wilson war, the few score men of draft

age who had gone through all the stages of the conscription process without being either bullied, bribed or bamboozled into becoming some part of the war machine. They had comparative freedom for their purpose after they arrived in Ft. Leavenworth from 1917 on to serve sentences of three years to 99 years or life. Their purpose was general revolutionary propaganda and, if the occasion proved favorable, revolutionary action. They had a taste of both but on so small a scale, viewed from the national perspective, that their accomplishment was only a tiny experimental one.

The political objectors found after armistice of November 1918 that they had as comrades a somewhat larger group of religious and pacifist objectors, commonly known as conscientious objectors. The politicals as a rule had no conscience so far as means of furthering their main purpose was concerned. They deemed socialism, or Communism as many of them began to call it after the Russian revolution, as



*A Strike Leader Addressing the Prisoners*



*Carl Haessler*



A Strike Leader, H. Austin Simons

more important than any specially ordained way of achieving it. So they were prepared to fight the conscienceless authorities with their own weapons. Where the commandant used spies and propaganda, the politicals did likewise and with better effect. In a few months they had the roughneck ordinary military convict tattooing red flags instead of the national emblem on their arms and chests. In some weeks more they had them rejecting every chance to shorten their terms by applying for reinstatement with the colors.

This could not have been done, the politicals clearly recognized, without the help of favoring circumstances. The war had ended, yet the ferocious sentences imposed by stupid and brutal court martials went on unrevised. The prison kitchen, designed for feeding 1,200 inmates, creaked and strained to care for 3,700. Food became universal grouch. Cells were packed with two to 16 men. Guards were in considerable part the unconvicted dregs of the army. They had not been wanted in the combat or training units of the



The Strike Spokesman, W. Oral James

war machine. Officers practically likewise—arbitrary, cruel, dishonest, callous. The growing symptoms of revolt cried for leadership and the radical agitators, the political objectors, were there to supply it.

Trouble began Christmas eve, 1918. The supply of bread from the overtaxed prison bakery ran out at supper time. Prisoners who complained were hectorated by a brainless captain. Soon the entire room was a chaos of yells, songs, anger and laughter. The laughter rose when officers who tried to bully the mob into silence were hit by flying raw onions and baked potatoes. The prisoners were finally led out of the mess hall two at a time and locked safely into their cell wings while soldiers with shotguns and machine guns stood guard from the gallery above.

A gorgeous Christmas dinner surprised the mob the next day. But it was interpreted as a sign of weakness in the prison regime. And disorder continued to increase.

Race riots broke out with the several hundred Negroes the victims of terrible assaults by the white "hard guys" who broke arms, knocked out teeth and bruised their helpless prey into jelly. The objectors realized that they, as the next most conspicuous minority in jail would be the next target for the spontaneous and misdirected mutinous energy of the prison roughs.

In a council of war the politicians therefore determined to supply the mutineers with a better policy and program. The general strike, with its three demands of amnesty, better jail conditions and release from solitary cells of some of the gangsters, resulted. The new policy was accepted by the gangsters, who were glad to have the help of the politicals' intelligence and, as they believed, social and political pull outside the walls. They were glad also to find in the authorities a more worthy object of their rage.

The politicals and the gangsters working unitedly constituted practically the entire articulate and conscious elements in the prison. What they agreed on was certain to be followed by almost every one else. As a result, the military was surprised, one Friday toward the end of January, to have the prisoners stand at a unit in refusing to turn out for work. They remained in the prison yard with folded arms until they were ordered back to their cells. No attempt was made to call them to work in the afternoon. That night

committees were hastily elected and secret communication established from wing to wing. Saturday morning the mutineers met the commandant. They were fully organized and conscious of their aims. There was no work that morning and the afternoon was a holiday as the prison worked on a 44-hour week.

That night the commandant surrendered. He agreed to go to Washington to present the amnesty demands, he agreed to improve the food, to reduce the number of men per cell, to increase the letter-writing privileges, to enlarge the visiting hours and rights to play or walk in the prison yard, to exterminate the bedbugs and to meet any other reasonable requests. The gangsters in the hole were brought back to daylight. He left for Washington that night.

Form No 34 8-5-18.5M

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
UNITED STATES DISCIPLINARY BARRACKS  
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

No. 15184 Result of trial ..... 11 19 ..... 1918  
Solitary nine hours standing ..... 14 ..... days  
Good time lost ..... days ..... Solitary ..... 14 ..... days  
Your time now expires ..... 191.....

**T. J. MILLER**

Executive Officer

A Disciplinary Order for "Solitary."

Sunday passed quietly. On Monday the officers tried to get the men back to work but they refused to budge until a wire was received from Washington stating that all cases would be reviewed and that material reductions in sentence would be made except in cases of civil felonies, of which there were less than a dozen in the prison population. Many would be freed as soon as the papers could be put through, the commandant telegraphed.

The men then returned to work. Their strike had been successful beyond their dreams. A mere headless destructive mob had been turned into an organized, disciplined and completely unified body of men whose insistence on a single comprehensive program had been carried to victory. The political prisoners had not produced the mob but they had supplied the direction for it. The two factors cooperated in a neat little revolutionary experiment behind the walls and under the guns of Ft. Leavenworth. When the tide of events produces similar conditions on a national scale, it may be that men of national caliber will be ready to carry out a similar experiment on national, and international lines.

# A REBEL WORKER'S LIFE

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

By Eugene Barnett

**A**FTER the 11th of November, 1919, in Lewis County, Washington, posses of men scoured the country around Centralia, forcibly entering homes, smashing doors, insulting and terrorizing women, and arresting men without warrants. The Prosecuting Attorney gave the statement to the capitalist press that the men arrested were members of an organized band of criminals, who had left a trail of crime and blood from the Atlantic to



*Barnett's Father and Mother*

the Pacific. As I was one of those men, I am going to tell you the story of my life, from the time of my birth to the present.

I was born in Caldwell County, North Carolina, February 21, 1891, on a little farm near Kings Creek. My parents were poor folks, renting the farm they lived on, and Dad worked out for wages most of the time. My father and mother were both native born in the state of North Carolina and so were their parents before them. In fact, we can't trace our ancestors out of the United States. My mother's father was a fifer in the Union Army, when it was fighting for the freedom of the black race in the United States. His name was Troy Miller and that name can be found in the history of the Civil War. So I think I can safely say I am an American.

I can remember back to the time

I was four years old. At that time we were living on a little farm not far from the one where I was born. Dad had in a small crop of buckwheat, a sweet potato patch, and a garden. He was doing carpenter work a few miles away, and only came home on Saturday nights. He got 5 cents a day and his board. He and my mother were both very religious then, and went to church regularly, prayed night and morning in their home and said grace at every meal. They were members of the Second Adventist Church, and the preachers visited at our home often. We had no stove, the big fire place in the stone chimney being used for warmth, and to cook the food, too. I never saw a stove until I was seven or eight years old. My mother did all her baking on the stone hearth in front of this fireplace, and cooked in iron pots hung on pot racks over the fire inside the fireplace.

My mother made all of our clothes by hand with needle and thread. She knitted our stockings and mittens, carding the wool herself by hand and spinning it on an old-fashioned foot power spinning wheel. And then she took in sewing and dressmaking for other people to help Dad make a living for the family. I was the oldest of the children then, a sister two years older than I having died when a little past two years old. When I was four I had two sisters, one three years old and the other two years old. And mother was never too busy to attend to our every need—and to kiss away our hurts either real or fancied. It makes my heart ache and my eyes fill with tears as I think of her today, still working hard enough for two women. Her only hope that she will live in a better world after death. There are four boys home yet, they help some but are going to school, so it takes more than they make to feed and clothe them. Dad's health is broken from hard work, and injuries received while working in a non-union factory in Aurora, Illinois, in 1913, when a steam hammer hit a piece of steel he was holding before he was ready. He was hurt internally and had several ribs broken, and hasn't been able to do heavy work since, and part of the time can't work at all. So mother is still doing work for others to get money to live on and keep the family together.

Among the things I can remember as the first of my life is one of sit-

ting on the floor by my mother's side while she was sewing, and with one of Webster's old blue-backed spelling books I would follow the line of letters down the page with my finger, and repeat them after her, and in this way I got my first schooling.

When I was six years old I went to school three months, and the next year I went five months. Then a man who had been raised neighbor boy to my Dad, and who, when a young man, had gone to West Virginia to work in the coal mines, and had now got to be a mine superinten-



*Mrs. Eugene Barnett*

dent, came back to North Carolina looking for men to work in the mines.

He told of all the money a good man could make and offered Dad a job. Dad accepted the offer and moved to Lynn Siding, West Virginia. I was eight years old then.

When we got to Lynn Siding, we found it to be a typical small mining camp. All the houses, except two or three where the bosses lived, were built on the same plan, painted the same dull color, and all had roofs of tar and gravel. When the sun shone hot in summer this tar would melt and hang down from the eaves like icicles in winter, and would drip like melting ice during the hottest part of each hot day, so there would be a string of soft tar under each eave and the smell of hot tar filled the air.

There was only one store in the camp, and like the rest of the camp

it was owned by the Company. The Post Office was in this company store. The camp was on the banks of the Tug River, and was surrounded by high rocky and timbered hills. Across the river was Kentucky, and there was something more; on the gravel bar between the river and the mountain was a tent camp. I asked a boy about ten years old what this camp was, and he said it was the strikers, that they wouldn't work so the company put them out of the camp. We could hear their children crying every day, and there were rumors that they were starving, still no one attempted to help them, but even seemed afraid to talk about them unless it was to say something mean about them.

Stories were told about them, such as are told about the I. W. W. today, of how they would not work, or that they would burn the camp, or blow up the mine. We were told how union men had to quit work any time they were told whether they wanted to or not. That an old woman could come and order us to quit, and then we would starve. I afterwards learned that Mother Jones had spoken to the union miners before we went there, and that she was the old wom-

an referred to. The boss offered Dad seventy-five cents a day for me to work in the mine. That was as much as Dad had got for carpenter work in North Carolina, so he put me to work. It was an old mine and I was about one and one-half miles underground.

The job I had was called tripping. It consisted in throwing switches or latches for drivers, opening and shutting the trap doors that direct the air thru the mine, and flagging for the drivers so they wouldn't run together and kill a mule or get killed themselves, the preservation of their lives, however, being secondary with the company. There was an old saying around the mines: "If you kill a mule we must buy another; but if you kill a driver we can hire another one."

Dad went to work outside the mine. He got \$1.75 a day for ten hours. He was running the drum that let the coal down the mountain to the tippie at the railroad. It was a gravity system. The mine cars held one ton each and were let down the mountain on a cable. There were two tracks down the mountain side and the loaded car pulled back the

one that had preceded it down, the latter now being empty.

The first day I was in the mine, the mine didn't run all day, and the drivers went home about 2 o'clock. When they went out they did not tell me and I stayed there waiting for them to come back until I had used the last oil I had with me in my lamp; then I began to get scared and to suspect that the drivers were not coming back. So I started out. When I got to the parting, which is a side track in the mines, I found the harness of the mules piled up there, so I knew I was left alone and I hiked for the outside but did not get very far until my light went out, for, greenhorn that I was, I had wasted my oil. I had never been in the mine until that morning, and I rode in on a trip then, so I was not sure I knew the way out. And then, to be in the dark, too. Well, I was a scared kid, for, as I told you, I was only eight years old. I was afraid to try to walk any more after my light went out so I got down on my knees with my hands on the rail and followed it, crawling until I got in sight of daylight.

(To be continued in Next Issue.)



# BUILDING THE I.L.D.

Conducted by

Rose Karsner



## Passaic Shows the Way.

By EMIL GARDOS.

THE Passaic textile strike, with its every manifestation of class-struggle, was a good school for the workers. Nine months of fighting with the united capitalist forces, the tear-bombs, clubbings, fire hoses, bombing cases, frame-up charges, were enough to open their eyes.

At the beginning of the strike, the only issue was the winning of economic demands. But later on, the school of experience taught the workers that the class-struggle has many phases and a purely economical action is not sufficient. The ruthless orgy of capitalist terror, the heavy sentences, exorbitant bills, strikers held without indictment, plowed the ground for the defense organization of the workers.

Several months ago, the slogan: "Defend Weisbord and all the strikers whose cases are held back until after the strike," was issued. The response was very good and one defense branch after another was formed.

In a short time nine I. L. D. branches were established. The Hungarian branch is leading with over 400 members, the other branches, English, (150 members, mostly

young people); Polish, Ukrainian, three Italian, Russian, Slovak have also members ranging from 50 to 200. This is not a paper membership, but a real organization with members paying up their dues and functioning as if they had a past of several years. All this was done in a few months with mostly foreign speaking church-going workers.

This little, inside revolution which the misled Passaic workers went thru, crystallized into the I. L. D., their first class organization.

Born in the midst of a struggle, when most of the time is taken away for strike activities, the I. L. D. could not yet develop into what it should and will be. Its collective membership of about 1,200 is just a nucleus, which can be easily doubled or tripled. The local comrades, with their energy and enthusiasm will become excellent leaders in the future, leaders coming right from the masses.

But even now the signs are very encouraging. At a time when other organizations are calling off their affairs because of the strike, the dance of the Hungarian branch netted over \$300, strikers paying no admission. The dance of the city committee is also a huge success. Cline, the class-war prisoner got a wonderful reception

from those who just woke up to the existence of their class position. With all their eagerness to read and learn, the Labor Defender is their favorite piece of literature with a monthly sale of 800-1,000 copies, each one being read by several workers.

Passaic shows the way. It shows to all tired revolutionaries that the American masses are far from being dormant. They are getting into motion much faster than one may think.

Passaic also points out the role of the I. L. D. which is bound to become a mass organization. The International Labor Defense appeals to every worker. All we need is work to do. The results in Passaic are certainly encouraging to every builder of the I. L. D.

## Our Next Campaign.

ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN is beginning her return trip and will be in the state of Minnesota January 11 to the 20. From there she continues eastward. It is practically certain now that Bishop Brown will go to the West Coast, and Scott Nearing or another prominent speaker will take the East.

These tours will be the opening guns in the anti-Fascisti campaign which the I. L. D. is now organizing to protect the Italian refugees who are threatened with de-

portation and to give American expression to the movement against Fascism.

The case of Enea Sormenti is the case of hundreds of Italian refugees in this country whose lives are threatened by deportation to Italy where they are sure to meet with death, persecutions and imprisonment.

In his efforts to kill all opposition to his regime at home or abroad, Mussolini has called upon the department of labor of the U. S. to help round up all Italians who have sought refuge in this country.

The I. L. D. considers it its class duty to come to the assistance of these Italian workers whose only crime is opposition to the bloody Mussolini tyranny.

The campaign will center around the defense of Enea Sormenti, of the outstanding leaders of the anti-Fascist movement in this country against whom steps for deportation have been taken. If they succeed in this instance it will be an easy matter to follow up with a wholesale deportation of the other refugees.

The deportation of the Italian refugees is not merely the concern of the Italian workers. It is the concern of all American militant workers. It is the concern of the whole American labor movement.

"Shall the U. S. government be the Bloodhound of Mussolini?" is the question which the I. L. D. will put to the American workers. Around this question will be built the entire anti-Fascist campaign against the deportation of the Italian refugees. No efforts will be spared to defend these Italian workers, whose lives hang in the balance.

A detailed campaign has been mapped

out by the national office. The secretaries will be called upon to carry it out step by step, receiving full instructions with each move.

We must defend Sormenti!

We must fight for the right of asylum for all the Italian refugees!

We must defeat Mussolini's murderous plans!

We can do it!

#### Monthly Contributions to the Prisoners' Pledge Fund.

1. Estelle Tarkoff, Boulder, Colo. 4
2. Mrs. A. Kratoff, Norwalk, Ohio.
3. F. Mandler, Cincinnati.
4. A. W. Routhier, Detroit.
5. Eugene Barnett Br., Local Chicago.
6. A. E. Anderson Br., Local Grand Rapids.
7. Joseph Wilson, Long Beach, Wash.
8. Albert Gerling, Madrid, Iowa.
9. Anna Hammer, Roslindale, Mass.
10. West Side Br. Local Cleveland.
11. Local Denver.
12. Local Perth Amboy, N. J.
13. Local Canton, Ohio.
14. Local Great Falls, Mont.
15. Local Rochester, Minn.
16. Bulg. Br. Local Chicago.
17. The Siegal Family, Ontario, Calif.
18. Lettish Br., Local Chicago.
19. Local Avella, Pa.
20. Local Valier, Ill.
21. Esth. & Finnish Brs., Local Seattle.
23. Local Newberry, Mich.
24. Boston Lettish Br.
25. Roxbury Lettish Br.
26. Malden Br. Local Boston.
27. South St. Br. Local Chicago.
28. Hung. Br. Local N. Y.
29. Local Arden, Del.
30. German Yorkville Br. Local N. Y.
31. Lith. Bklyn Br., Local N. Y.
32. N. S. English Br. Local Chicago.
33. Russian Br., Local Chicago.
34. South St. Br. South Chicago.
35. S. W. English Br. Local Chicago.
36. Ukr. Br., Local Chicago.
37. Polish Br., Local Passaic.
38. Slovak Br., Cleveland Local.
39. Irving Park English Br., Local Chgo.
40. Lithuanian Br., Local Philadelphia.
41. Jewish Br., Local Chicago.
42. Richmond German Br., Local N. Y.

43. Brownsville English Br., Local New York.
44. Karl Marx Br., Local Chicago.
45. Hungarian Br., Local Detroit.
46. Sanatorium, Colo. (Sophie Katz).
47. Lithuanian Br., Chicago Local.
48. Scandinavian Br., Local Detroit.
49. Northern Progressive Ladies Soc., Br., Local Detroit.
50. Women's Educational League, Seattle.
51. Greek Branch, Detroit Local.
52. Italian Br., Chicago Local.
53. Greek Br., Chicago Local.
54. Anti-Fascist Br., Detroit Local.
55. Tom Mooney Br., Detroit Local.
56. South St. Br. Detroit Local.
57. Jens Jensen, Bridgeport, Conn.

NOTE: We are glad to announce that the class-war prisoners are being gradually released. By the first of the year it is expected that there will be only about 40 left in prisons. On the other hand others are being sent to prison. In Passaic for example 11 strikers are still in jail. The Pledge fund is being broadened so that we give assistance not only to those in prison, but also to those coming out and to dependent families. The larger this fund can be made, the more help we will be able to extend. We should work this Fund up so that we always have something on hand for emergencies when new arrests or deportations are made. In the next issue we will give a complete list of those who receive assistance out of this fund, and the amount that has been pledged.



# Voices FROM Prison

## Eugene Barnett

P. O. Box No. 520, Walla Walla, Wash.  
International Labor Defense.

Dear Comrade:

Your letter of Oct. 26 with check for eleventh monthly prisoners' relief has been received by me. Also, Comrade Cannon's letter of a week ago.

As usual, I was more than pleased to hear from you. Your letters show that at least one section of the labor movement is wide awake and marching forward.

The recent decision of the U. S. supreme court upholding the constitutionality of the Kansas Industrial court makes it imperative for the workers to build up their defense organizations at once to maximum strength. Such a decision can only foreshadow a new onslaught on the workers and the jails will be filled again with labor's most active members. Even now the case of the 'carpenters in San Francisco has all the earmarks of a frame-up.

I hope you are successful in your "Debs Enrollment" campaign. Every man and woman who loved this noble martyr of the

working class should honor his memory by joining the I. L. D. and helping to build it to such strength as to make it forever impossible for the ruling class to send innocent workers to prison and death simply because they have been active in the struggle to better the lot of the workers.

I wrote out to a couple of comrades and asked them to auction a hair hand bag for me but they were too busy. I have three bags in my cell, two hair and one crocheted bead bag.

We haven't had any lights in our cells since the fire so I can't do much now.

With best wishes to the I. L. D. for a successful organization drive, I remain,

Yours fraternally,  
Eugene Barnett.

## Matt Schmidt

San Quentin Prison.

Mr. James P. Cannon,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Friend:

Your letter with the check came safely. I can only thank you and our other friends for their generosity.

We all feel the loss of Gene Debs. He was living proof of the old saying that "The only thing you can save is that which you give away." As the years pass the American people will be less proud of the way he was treated. History is the best avenger. He will be remembered long after those who assailed him shall have reaped the oblivion which they so richly merit. The best way to honor Debs is to follow his fine example.

Give my thanks to all of our good friends. My best wishes, to all of you.

Sincerely,  
M. A. Schmidt.

## Danny Fallon

Box 35, West Rockport, Me.  
Mr. James P. Cannon,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade Cannon:

Received your welcome letter regarding my release and where I will go. Well, comrade, I have no plans for the future made yet, but I was going to attend some of the I. L. D. meetings, and I will be sure to come out your way.



My sentence expires the 16th of December, 1926. I have lost two fingers, so I do not know just what I will do. I came here an able bodied man, but I will leave a cripple for life, and the fault is the state's.

Comrade Cannon, I sold what bead work I had, trying to get some money to go out looking half-way decent, as the state allows a man just the large sum of Eleven dollars and fifty cents for a suit.

I will keep in touch with you and let you know just where I settle.

If you can see your way clear towards helping me in the way of getting some clothes, why I will appreciate it very deeply. My father died since I came here, and I will have to get out and dig my way, as the press and others would never let my name rest while in this state, and the International Seamen's Union has not even sent the boys a stamp, they called us too radical to belong to their outfit. Well, I am glad that I am a radical, I would rather be that than president.

I will close, hoping this finds you well and that the I. L. D. grows larger, with regards and best wishes to all comrades.

I remain,

As ever, a loyal comrade,

Danny Fallon.

### Three Deportees

Boston, Mass.

To the International Labor Defense.

Dear Comrades:

Within next few days we will leave the shores of this "land of the Free". We are being deported because we have "sinned" against the master class by exposing the exploitation and the slavery to which the poor Portuguese worker is subjected in the cotton mills of Fall River, Mass., and in other industries all over New England. Our "crime" is considered particularly "horrible" because we dared to expose the dirty work of the catholic church among the poor Portuguese workers and therefore the Portuguese catholic priest condemned us and jointly with other agents of the master class, he undertook our persecution and finally secured our deportation. The "holy

agent" of the catholic church, the "guardian of the weak and the persecuted," has nothing to say about the sufferings of our poor wives and babies, whom we are forced to leave here without bread, clothing and shelter . . . So, this is "christianity."

We will be deported on November 21. Before leaving this country and our starving families, we wish to extend our fraternal greetings to you, comrades, of the International Labor Defense and thru you to all poor and persecuted fellow workers. We express our deepest and most sincere gratitude to the International Labor Defense for the splendid work this wonderful organization has done in taking upon itself without conditions whatever and conducting our defense for nearly seven months. The expenses have been enormous and the work was hard. But you did not stop and you have done all and everything humanly possible in our behalf. For this you deserve the lasting gratitude from us and from all workers. Your organization is the only true friend for all Portuguese workers and fully deserves the name of The Shield of the Working Class. We call upon all workers to join and support the great defense organization—the International Labor Defense.

With best wishes and kind regards, we remain,

Fraternally yours,

Antonio Da Costa,  
Antonio Ahrs Pereira.  
Diamantino Teixeira.

Comrade J. Neise invites members and friends of International Labor Defense, passing thru Troy, New York, to stop at the store of the Double-N Radio Company, 2347 Fifth Avenue, Troy, N. Y., where I. L. D. literature may be obtained.

At its recent convention in Minneapolis, the Co-operative League of America, with tens of thousands of affiliated members in the United States, adopted a resolution endorsing the work of International Labor Defense. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

## Greasing the Rails for the Passaic Strikers

(Continued from page 5)

the other as the judge who reduced the amount knew well. Two are held on \$50,000 each, three on \$30,000 and the rest for \$25,000, \$20,000 and \$15,000.

It is clear that the police and courts have intentions of riding these men to state's prison if they possibly can. They are filled with bitterness and hatred against the strikers for the publicity that has spread all over the country showing up the police as brutes and unscrupulous bullies. Now they have a chance to get even and they are going to take it.

The trial of the six men who are held in the Passaic county jail at Paterson has finally been set for December 13. It has been set twice before and postponed. This time the prisoners are hoping it will go through. They say anything that might happen would be better than the uncertainty and inactivity from which they have suffered shut up in the musty old walls of the county jail built before the Civil War.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, now on a country-wide tour for the International Labor Defense, is making the defense of the Passaic strikers one of her main appeals. Families of the men in jail are in desperate need. We must work fast.

The bound volume of the Labor Defender for the year 1926, containing the twelve issues from January, 1926, to December, 1926 inclusive, with a cloth binding, will soon be ready. Only a limited number will be available, not for sale, but as prizes for the best showing in the membership drive of the I. L. D.

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 1926.

14422 Gust Williams, Duluth, Minn. thru S. Pobersky	2.35	14442 Geo. Peneff, Pontiac, Mich.	27.03	14462 H. Perkon Local, Erie, Pa., collection from Cline meeting	7.00
14423 Albert Gerling, Madrid, Iowa	2.00	14443 Charles Czill, West View, Pa.	3.00	14463 Ralph Gore, Local Coverdale, Pa.	7.00
14424 L. Copeck, Racine, Wis., collection at Cline meeting	16.00	14444 P. V. Zalpis, Secy. Lithuanian Sec., Chicago, Ill.	30.00	14464 Cyril Lambkin, Local Detroit, Mich.	5.00
14425 A. J. Kareckas, Grand Rapids, Mich., Collection at Cline meeting	7.75	14445 American Fund for Public Service, New York, N. Y.	2000.00	14465 The Siegel Family, Ontario, Calif.	1.00
14426 Mike Chelovitz, Akron, Ohio, collection at Cline meeting	9.65	14446 Helen N. Yeskevich, Lithuanian No. 17, Br. Brooklyn, N. Y.	5.00	14466 M. Kalousek, Czecho Slovak Section, Chicago, Ill.	15.00
14427 C. Hacker, Cleveland, Ohio, collection at Cline meeting	14.91	14447 Phillip DiGiambattista, Local Avella, Pa.	5.00	14467 Mrs. A. Kratofil, Norwalk, Ohio	5.00
14428 Frank Schrama, Neffs, Ohio, collection at Cline meeting	6.80	14448 Robert Zelms, New England Division, Boston, Mass.	75.00	14468 S. Melus, Local Passaic, N. J.	5.00
14429 W. Metcalf, Youngstown, Ohio, collection at Cline meeting	10.00	14449 Slovak Workers Society, Hammond, Ind., thru Paul Bucha	2.00	14469 M. S. Alderton, Palo Alto, Cal., Secy. Housewives Union No. 1	1.00
14430 Mrs. Gustave Heinrich, Milwaukee	2.00	14450 Helen N. Yeskevich, Lithuanian No. 17, Br. Brooklyn, N. Y.	5.00	14470 Robert Zelms, New England Division, Boston, Mass.	75.00
14431 S. Kalli, New Castle, Pa., thru Finnish section	3.75	14451 R. F. Herrold, Treas. S. U. of N. A. No. 151, Elkhart, Ind.	5.00	14471 Robert Zelms, New England Division, Boston, Mass.	10.00
14432 Jack Lettish, Royal Oak, Mich.	1.70	14452 Anna Hammer, Roslindale, Mass.	1.00	14472 A. M. Algeo, Local Galveston, Tex.	18.15
14433 Oscar Corgan, Hancock, Mich., thru Finnish Sec.	3.00	14453 Workers Club, Newberry, Mich.	5.00	14473 S. Katz, Sanatorium, Colo.	5.00
14434 Estella Tarkoff, Boulder, Colo.	5.00	14454 R. Zelms, New England Division, Boston, Mass.	100.00	14474 A. N. Ruthier, Detroit, Mich.	10.00
14432 Arthur Rogers, Bloomfield, Conn.	5.00	14455 James A. Ayers, Local Denver, Colo.	5.00	14475 R. Baron, New York, N. Y.	5.00
14436 R. Baron, Local New York, N. Y.	10.00	14456 Cyril Lambkin, Local Detroit, Mich.	30.00	14476 H. Perkon, Erie, Pa.	4.00
14437 Joseph Kertesz, Executive Secy., Workingmen's Sick Benefit & Educational Soc., New York, N. Y.	90.53	14457 C. Blattman, Fin. Secy. Workmen's Sick Death & Benefit Fund, Br. 42, Waterbury, Conn.	5.00	14477 Joseph Kertesz, Workmen's Sick Benefit & Educ., New York, N. Y.	45.57
14438 Joseph Kertesz, Executive Secy., Workingmen's Sick Benefit & Educational Soc., New York, N. Y.	47.40	14458 Phillip Gilbert & John Ogulnick, Norwich, Conn.	23.25	14478 Joseph Wilson, Long Beach, Wash.	20.00
14439 Void		14459 M. Kalousek, Secy. Czecho Slovak Section, Chicago, Ill.	8.00	14479 M. Kalousek, Czecho Slovak Section	25.00
14440 M. S. Alderton, Palo Alto, Cal., Secy. Housewives Union No. 1	1.00	14460 A. S. Epstein, Local Hartford, Conn., Collection from Cline meeting	9.65	14480 Evangeline Porter, San Jose, Cal.	20.00
14441 Jean Stovel, Local Seattle, Wash.	5.00	14461 Jennie Cooper, Local Buffalo, N. Y., collection from Cline meeting	25.00	14481 Waukegan Finnish Section, Waukegan, Ill.	15.00
				14482 Robert Zelms, New England Division, Boston, Mass.	5.00
				14483 Robert Zelms, New England Division, Boston, Mass.	25.00
				14484 Minnie Newcombe, Local Arden, Del.	5.00
				14485 Geo. Maurer, Secy. Local Chicago, Ill.	35.00
				14486 John S. Reed, Local Rochester, Minn.	10.00
				14487 Paul Chromek, Chicago, Ill.	3.75
				Total	\$2995.24



MORE THAN 300  
WORKERS ARE  
INVOLVED IN  
CASES PENDING!  
HELP PROVIDE  
LEGAL DE-  
FENSE!



# EACH MONTH

## \$5.00 TO CLASS-WAR PRISONERS

## \$20.00 TO DEPENDENT FAMILIES

International Labor De-  
fense sends monthly \$5  
to each class-war prison-  
er and \$20 to several de-  
pendent families.

This Pledge Fund must be broadened and increased so as to make it possible for the I. L. D. to assist more dependent families and to render aid to released prisoners who re-enter the world with a suit of shoddy clothes on their backs and a few dollars (usually \$5) in their pockets which the prison authorities supply.

**Join the**  
**Friends of Class-War**  
**Prisoners**  
**SIGN TODAY**

**INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE,**  
23 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Ill.

Enclosed please find \$..... toward the Pledge Fund.

Also please consider me one of the Friends of Class-War Prisoners. I agree to send regularly each month \$..... toward the Prisoners' Pledge Fund, beginning ..... to help the I. L. D. continue sending \$5 monthly to class war prisoners and \$20 monthly to dependent families as well as to help released prisoners. Please send me a Pledge Card and assign to me one of the class-war prisoners with whom I can communicate.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... STATE .....

NOTE: Names of the Friends of Class-War Prisoners will be published in The Labor Defender each month.