

tered the U. S. S. R. through Poland, Latvia and Finland with the definite plan of throwing the country into chaos by assassination and every possible means of sabotage.

The press of the capitalist world had been able to bear up under the news of Kirov's assassination with considerable fortitude. It steeled itself against more such assassinations. But at the execution of these White Guards, the editorial writers broke down and wept in every language; the Soviet government was a government of kidnapers; worse, it was a government of assassins. It killed without trial. It killed innocent men. Women and children, too, were dragged out of their homes and stood against the wall. The New Republic compared the execution of these saboteurs to Hitler's "purge."

This comparison is sheer obfuscation. The Soviets have nothing to apologize for. Theirs is the dictatorship of the proletariat—of the masses, the vast majority. Fascist dictatorship is the instrument of the Thyssens, Krupps and Schachts. The proletarian dictatorship struggles for a classless society; the fascist strives to rescue capitalism. The proletarian dictatorship is the most powerful guarantee for peace; the fascist strives for war, hoping thereby to salvage the profit-system. The Hitler purge was the internecine brawling of these fascist brigands for power. The question there was "Which Nazi group shall wield the whip over the masses."

Harold Denny writes in The New York Times of December 16, "It seemed as if the government was deliberately warning its own people and inimical people in neighboring states that any unfriendly political activity would be extremely unhealthy." The millions of workers and farmers applauded this warning to the counter-revolutionary individuals within the country. But those with guilty consciences had reason to fear. Denny continues: "It is among the 'people of the past' . . . that anxiety is most apparent." And it is these people who, as he wrote, "have destroyed their pocket address books in order to avoid involving friends if they themselves should be arrested." The people of the past . . . !

The following telegram to Pravda from the people of the present and the future — the proletariat — is revealing of the general attitude: "We shock brigade workers on the Neva hydro-electric station pledge ourselves to complete it ahead of time as our answer

to the dastardly assassination of Comrade Kirov."

The antagonism to the Soviet Union reached its climax in New York City where a united front of White Russians, Socialist leaders and Russian Social Democrats organized a meeting, presumably to protest against the execution of a hundred counter-revolutionists.

Among the speakers was Algernon Lee, one of the leaders of the Socialist Party. Mr. Lee delivered a long and violent speech against the Soviet Union, whose leaders he compared to the instigators of the Spanish inquisition and whom he denounced as the "greatest enemies of mankind." Mr. Lee was followed by Isaac Don Levine, Hearst's anti-Soviet specialist.

Mr. Levine is a journalist and professional Soviet hater, who has written for the Hearst papers most of his life and knows pretty definitely on which side his bread (white bread) is buttered. Mr. Levine's speech had all the ear-marks of having been written by Mr. Hearst himself. He denounced the Russian Communists as being Red Fascists; he described the Soviet Union as "a government of kidnapers," he compared the hundred White Guards who were executed to "Tom Mooneys" and expressed in the terms of yellow journalism what Mr. Algernon Lee had uttered in terms of lame pulpit demagoguery.

Other speakers—Countess Tolstoya, White Guards and others—also contributed their bit to the general irrationality and were wildly applauded by the White Russians who had packed the hall to cheer indiscriminately every speaker attacking the Soviet Union, be he Socialist, Hearst agent, or White Guard.

What, however, was significant about the meeting was not that there are two thousand White Russians in New York City who will turn out en masse for an anti-Soviet meeting, but that Socialist leaders like Algernon Lee will make a united front with them. In 1917 and 1918, when the Soviet Union was desperately defending the very existence of a socialist state, these same White Russians, who so wildly applauded the speech of the Socialist leader, Algernon Lee, were shooting workers down in cold blood.

For some time now the Communist Party has made every effort and every concession it can make for a united front with the Socialist Party. It has been rebuffed time and time again, not

by the rank and file, but by the Socialist leaders who would rather speak on a platform with the natural enemies of their rank and file than for an instant sacrifice their personal interests in furthering socialism. Algernon Lee and his confreres remained calm when hundreds of workers, Socialist as well as Communist, were stood up against a wall and shot down by the fascist government of Spain, but when a hundred counter-revolutionists, planning to overthrow the only workers' state in the world are caught red-handed, he joins the counter-revolutionary forces to protest against their execution.

No wonder the Socialist rank and file absented themselves from Cooper Union. The Algernon Lees thundering from the pulpits can no longer obstruct the surge toward unity. They have made their choice and history will place them alongside the Kerenskys, the Koltchaks and the Kornilovs.

Kiangwan Civic Centre

For a certain class
to protect its property and persons
in Shanghai
it is necessary to maintain
in the International Settlement alone
7,155 armed guards watchmen constables
detectives sergeants inspectors
superintendents deputies commissioners
of european indian japanese chinese and russian
nationalities
besides which
the French Concession has its police force
the Chinese districts have their police and
military forces
there is a citizens Volunteer Corps of all
nationalities
a special corps of paid volunteer and reserve
police
and numerous private spying and gangster organizations

AND IN ADDITION

to protect the property and persons
of a certain class
it is necessary to erect
at strategic street-corners in Shanghai
spiketopped steelsheeted gates
concrete blockhouses mounted guntowers
barbed-wire barricades bombproof ironsheds
and many other pretty things

All of this necessary
to protect the persons and property
of a certain class
who do not number
even one-half of one percent
of the toiling population of Shanghai

MIKE PELL

At Last, A Department Store Strike!

*From the New Masses
Mid-West Bureau*

MILWAUKEE.

LAST SATURDAY'S picketing concluded the second week in the strike of 600 workers of Milwaukee's large Boston Department Store. Three A. F. of L. locals are participating in this fight which, if it succeeds, will precipitate dozens of similar actions throughout the country. "Labor leaders" and N.R.A. officials are buzzing around thick and noisy but their attempts to confuse the issues have been decisively rejected by a picket-line encircling the store's four entrances. In addition to the members of the Retail Clerks' Protective Association, the Auto Truck Drivers' and Helpers' Union and the Building Service Employees' Union, the picket-line has been reinforced daily by members of the Unemployment Council and the Workers' Committee on Unemployment.

On Dec. 13, Federal Mediator H. L. McCarthy tried to negotiate a miserable settlement which offered a guarantee of the present weekly minimum for clerks with a straight percentage of net sales, an increase of fifty cents a week for non-selling employees who had been with the company for at least a year and immediate return to the jobs without discrimination. For three hours, James P. Sheehan of the Federated Trades Council and Joseph Padway, attorney for the State Federation of Labor and one of the sellout men in the Milwaukee car strike, backed McCarthy in trying to shove the settlement through. Then they were asked to leave the room, and for a few minutes the floor was given over to rank and file speakers. The vote to reject the settlement stood 494 to 19.

Mr. McCarthy had been anxious to see the thing smoothed over since "the federal government is much concerned over the Milwaukee department store trouble because it is one of the first of its kind in the nation and because of its effect upon department stores all over the country."

These are not empty words, Mr. McCarthy would have you know. As a result of the truck drivers' strike, the store is sending its packages parcel post, using the substation located inside the store. The postal employes are unorganized but A. F. of L. officials have succeeded in keeping union men of several crafts on jobs inside the store. Rank and file pressure for a strike of the electrical workers, painters and carpenters has been increasing. One carpenter said: "I can't walk through those picket lines any more with an A. F. of L. card in my pocket. I feel no better than a scab clerk."

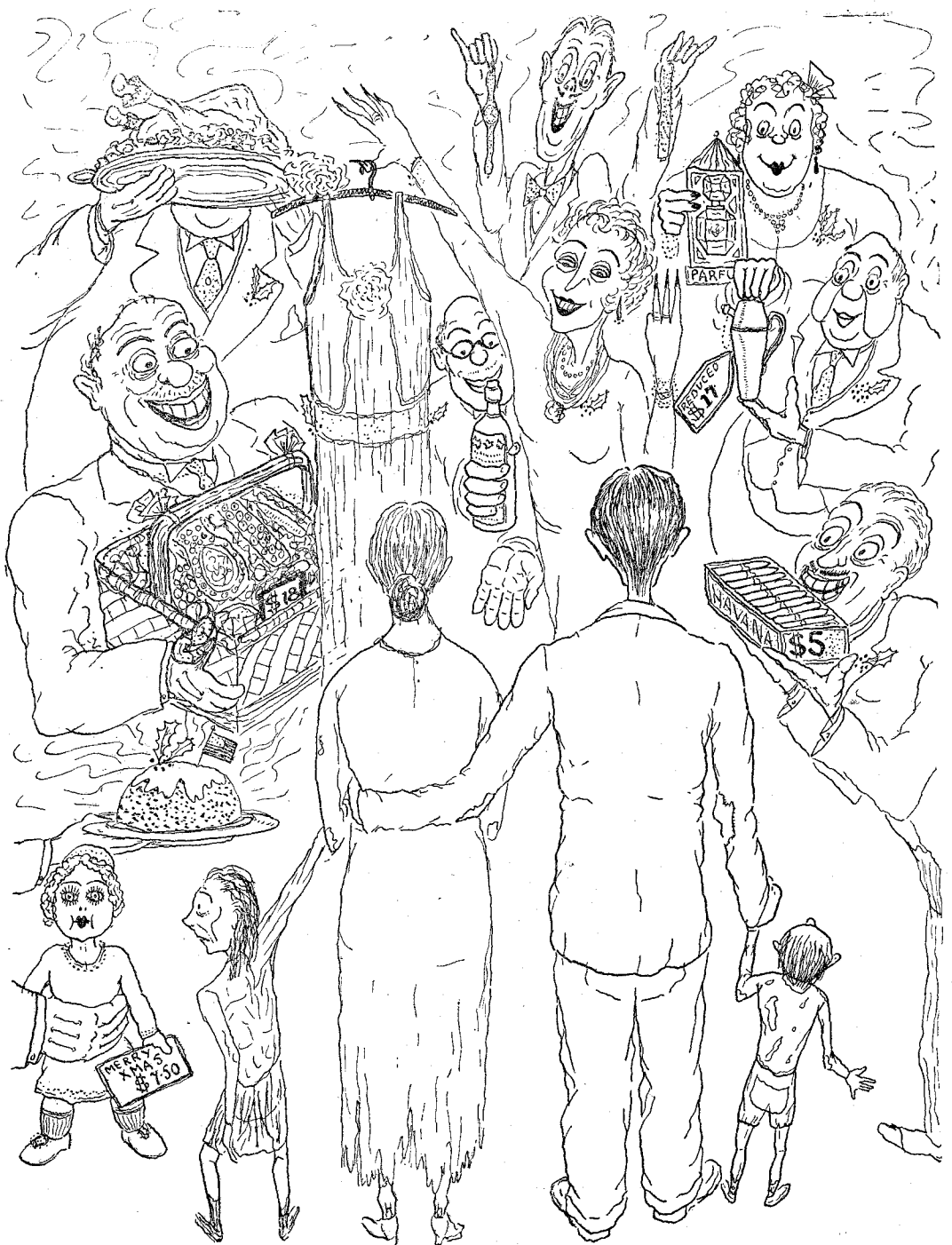
The Boston Store is one of the richest in Milwaukee, "the store with the Christmas spirit," and it refuses to publish a statement

of its profits. From the beginning of the strike it has been splashing double page ads into the local newspapers, including the Socialist Milwaukee Leader.

One of the family of owners finds enough money in the register to purchase ten pounds of meat daily for his dogs and to hire an expert imported from Europe to see that their stomachs remain in order. He has taken considerably less trouble to attend to the wants of Mrs. Alma Streeck, who has worked in the store for fifteen years, selling everything from diapers to diamonds. She receives \$12.50 a week and a two percent bonus on sales above \$252. This is the same bonus awarded the girls at the two-cent counter.

Mrs. Streeck has only her ill husband to support on this wage, but Albert Draws, a tailor in the women's dress department, has a family. He has worked in the store for the past twenty-six years and he used to get \$35 but now he only gets \$14.50. He has been one of the steadiest picketers through the freezing cold and the rains, and last week he collapsed and had to be carried home. But the next day he was back on the line.

Charles Mack, another striker, has kept a record for the past three years, putting down each hour of unpaid overtime and now the total comes to 2,463. He says: "When I came from the farm to work here I was strong and healthy. I lost 17 pounds from



Mackey