

The government, the biggest mortgage holder of cattle in the West, the banks, and insurance companies will grab half of these payments. Whatever little cash relief is provided will be given the farmers only if they do forced labor. In addition, point 6 of this program will be used to drive thousands of the smaller farmers off their lands to work

on "subsistence farms." This is enough to show that the government once more is picking the pockets of the workers and small farmers to provide a jack pot to strengthen the position of the rich farmers and business men, capitalism's chief allies in the class war out in the countryside. This is enough to show that Roosevelt's 7-point relief

program will prove a 7-point barbed wire on which to catch and mangle the exploited farm masses of the United States. Only in the U.S.S.R. where the farms have been collectivized, has the drought been adequately combatted—by the community in entirety turning out to dig ditches, haul water—defeat nature by Communism.

X Prepares for War

THE United States Steel Corporation—monopoly of monopolies—is known as X on the Stock Exchange. Not because it is an unknown quantity. To the contrary: the graph in Steel's economy is generally the graph of the nation's economy. Steel's every movement, every gesture, is known, weighed, evaluated; a whisper in Steel crashes across the continent. X is no unknown quantity.

X's preparations for the steel strike are common knowledge. Car-loads of gunmen arrive daily in the steel country: the companies store up stocks of provender and munitions. If the steel strike breaks, all indications point to a stubborn, bitter war. Both sides make ready. The steel workers stock up their pathetic cupboards with cans of beans, soup, all the cheap, most filling foods. As for their munitions: they have only organization, unity, militancy to match sawed-off shotguns, poison gas, machine-guns. But the steel proletarians are fighters. Nineteen-nineteen is a historic year for the American proletariat. Nineteen thirty-four bids to duplicate—and even, surpass—that stirring year. In fact, on the eve of the steel strike history busily repeats itself. Almost all basic factors in the steel workers' preparations for the great 1919 strike are present on the scene today.

In 1919: the progressives within the American Federation of Labor, led by William Z. Foster, organized the strike. Three hundred and sixty-five thousand of the nation's key proletariat went to battle.

In 1934: the progressive elements within the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, backed by the militant Steel and Metal Workers' Industrial Union, drive forward to struggle.

In 1919: the reactionary Gompers machine, ably assisted by Mike Tighe,

then also head of the Amalgamated, toiled unweariedly to sabotage strike preparations.

In 1934: Mike Tighe, benefitted by fifteen years' additional sell-out experience, reenacts his Judas role, assisted by William Green, instead of the gone but never-to-be-forgotten Gompers.

On the eve of the gigantic post-war steel strike, President Wilson attempted a last-minute intervention maneuver. He appointed Bernard Baruch, of the House of Morgan, mediator. The present incumbent of the White House again seeks mediators. History in repeating itself occasionally assumes ironic twists—this time Baruch's former office boy, General Hugh S. Johnson, is the master pooh-bah. (The steel workers call him the master bunk artist.) It is his historic assignment to try to crush the steel strike.

In 1919: the newly organized masses of steel workers led by Foster surged ahead for strike, forcing the issue upon the misleaders. Today this militancy has its exact counterpart: again the newly organized steel proletariat drives to force the leadership to call for strike.

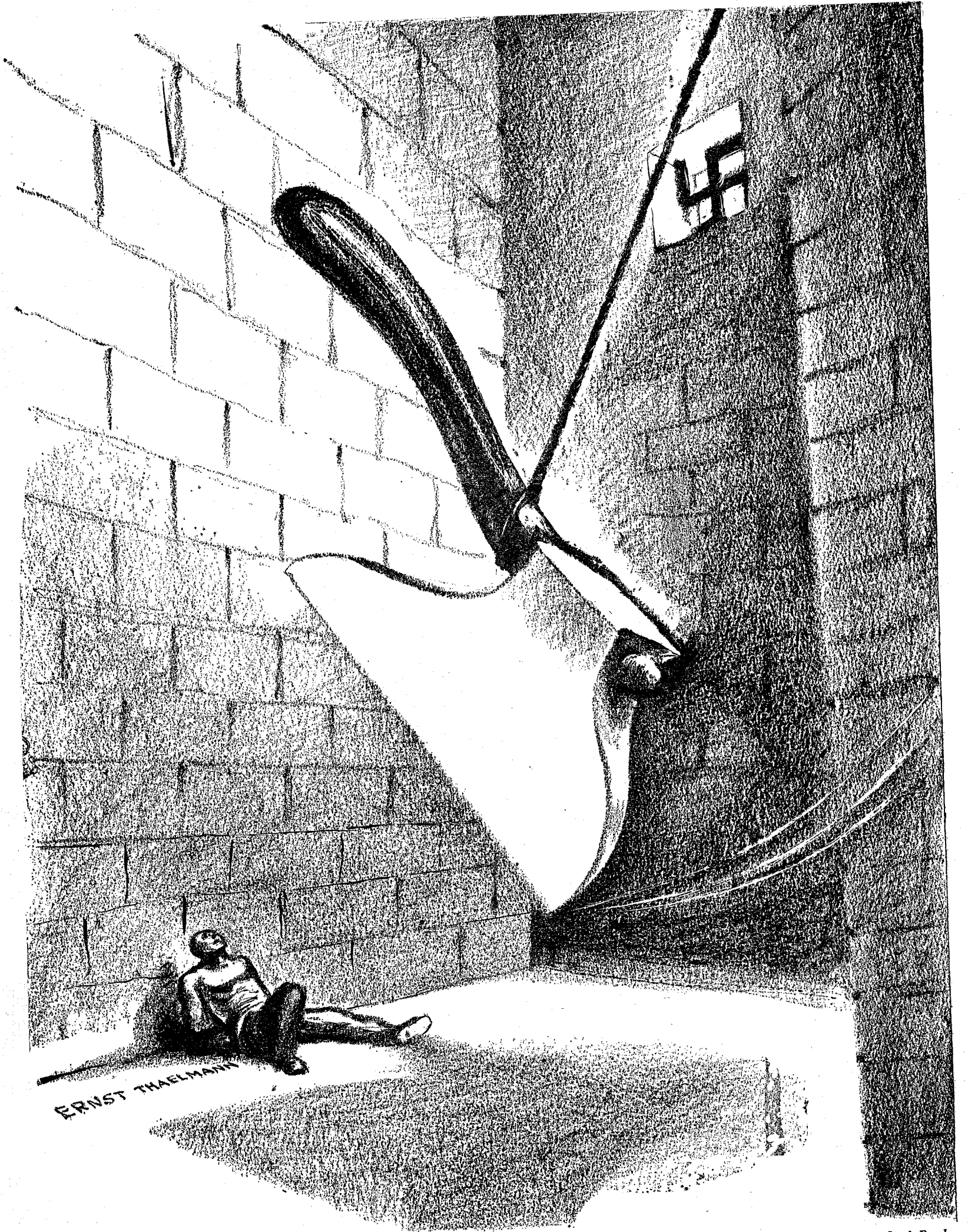
But the similarity ends abruptly here. The 1919 steel strike took place despite the Unholy Alliance's machinations. However, for all of Foster's able leadership, the maneuvers, obstructive tactics and terrorism of the government and the Gompers camarilla eventually smashed the strike. Class lines have sharpened during these intervening years. The American working-class has waged many bitter battles since 1919. The economic crisis has driven the basic industrial workers into the depths of poverty. The class-consciousness of the working-class begins to equal the class-consciousness of the master-class. Since 1919 the American proletariat has built its own political party, the Communist Party, whose roots have sunk

deep into the many important sections of the steel industry. These are the all-important factors making the present period fundamentally different from that of 1919.

During the great strike, craft unionism predominated in the A. F. of L. unions in steel. Foster succeeded in welding them into a semblance of a unit; the bureaucrats of the various internationals in the strike eventually succeeded in destroying this unity. Today, some thousands of steel workers march under the banner of the Steel and Metal Workers' Industrial Union, an industrial union whose program is based on the strategy and tactics of the class-struggle. This union is supplying the impetus for unity in the impending strike: this union promises to become the instrument by which the much needed unity and fighting program will be achieved.

To date, the Committee of Ten has proved an obstacle rather than a means for attaining unity and rank and file leadership over the heads of the Tighe-Leanord combination. The committee has wavered and stammered: it has skirted perilously close to downright treachery against the workers who elected it. Only the stormy pressure from the workers back in the mill towns forced the Committee, finally, during its last few days in Washington, to reject Johnson's company union proposals. The special convention of the Amalgamated Association scheduled to convene in Pittsburgh, as we go to press, was called to settle the question. There is not the slightest doubt that the Tighe machine and the government will be ably represented at the convention for the sole purpose of smashing the strike before it begins. X plans its strategy well.

But the rank and file will have the final word.



Jacob Burck

The Week's Papers

WEDNESDAY—Bribes often produced certificates for plumbers who failed to pass examination requirements, New York City probe discloses. . . . Harriman denies ever knowing there were falsified records or misapplication of funds in his now defunct bank. . . . Drought is major national disaster, cutting off "large segment of population from livelihood," Roosevelt declares. . . . Treasury offerings of notes and bonds eight times over-subscribed, with about seven billion dollars offered. . . . Steel bosses repeat they will never even discuss giving up their company unions. . . . Walter Duntz predicts major war in near future. . . . Hitlerites in United States, including Ambassador Luther, shown before Washington committee hearing to have taken part in direct Nazi propaganda. . . . More Macaulay Publishing Co. pickets arrested in New York. . . . Shorter work week, more pay asked by hosiery workers in convention at Reading, Pa. . . . Schenley Distillery Corp. reports net profits for first quarter of year of \$3,214,338. . . . Two workers of Dow Chemical Company, Detroit, die from mysterious war gas fumes.

Thursday—Macaulay strike is ended, with strikers returning to old jobs. . . . Another delegation goes to German Consulate in New York demanding liberation of Ernst Thaelmann. . . . Weirton Steel Co. fires 116 unionists as strike preparations spread in industry. . . . Nazis drill here in German uniforms and rifles obtained from New York National Guard, Congressional committee testimony shows. . . . Many large corporations in receivership rush to reorganize under helpful new bankruptcy law signed by Roosevelt. . . . Yale will give Roosevelt honorary Doctor of Laws degree. . . . Aaron Sapiro filed bankruptcy proceedings; liabilities \$181,000; assets \$14,425 (mostly uncollected accounts). . . . James Lechay and his wife found guilty of disorderly conduct at unemployed demonstration at which they were beaten up by cops. . . . 30 day sentence suspended. . . . Raymond Moley, editor of Today, appointed receiver of the St. Regis Hotel, New York, on which Vincent Astor, publisher of Today, foreclosed. . . . House votes for census of "unemployed,

employed and occupations" to start in November at cost of \$7,540,000.

Friday—Rank and file steel workers at Washington boo Johnson's radio speech insulting them, reject bosses-N.R.A. plan to prevent strike. . . . Smallest wheat crop since 1893 expected this year. . . . Upholding private profit system as a major policy, Roosevelt suggests (may be some time next winter) unemployment and old-age insurance in message to Congress. . . . Congress asks committee to find out if Tugwell is a radical. . . . 1,200 teachers at New York mass meeting protest lack of academic freedom and threats against non-conservative teachers. . . . Daniel Willard, president of the B. & O., predicts confidently railroads will make even more money this year than last. . . . Three-hour strike on New York docks in sympathy with Pacific Coast strikers is held.

Saturday—Roosevelt asks Congress appropriate \$525,000,000 for drought relief. . . . Steel workers reject "neutral arbitration" offer of American Steel and Iron Institute. . . . Merchant Filene supports Roosevelt's "social program": "Unemployment relief is profitable for business," he says. . . . Arrested Coney Island striker charges cop beat him, burnt his cheeks with lighted cigarettes, his soles with matches and pulled his hair out in LaGuardian "third degree." . . . N.R.A. price fixing policy well scrambled after four official statements on new policy in three days.

Sunday—Secretary of Agriculture Wallace sees "possible future blessing from drought". . . . Steel production expected to drop to 30 percent in July. . . . Steel workers call convention in Pittsburgh, June 14, to discuss strike. . . . President Cutten of Colgate tells seniors graduating from college into a depression "should prove a blessing". . . . William Green admits Congress has failed to pass single labor measure.

Monday—Tugwell, former dirt farmer, tells Senate committee he's conservative. . . . "Government action" threatened as steel strike sentiment grows. . . . Harvard stirred by report Ernst Hanfstaengl, Hitler's chief of

the foreign press section, is en route from Berlin intending to attend class reunion at Harvard next week. . . . American Newspaper Publishers' Association opposes emasculated Wagner Labor Bill because "it would impose unbearable burdens on the employers". . . . Belgium and Czechoslovakia announce they will default on war debts, joining Great Britain in similar action. . . . New York's military Police Commissioner O'Ryan orders his cops to use "all force necessary" at demonstrations. . . . Milk price rises another cent. . . . Slaughter house workers join New York and New Jersey butchers and meat cutters in their strike. . . . N.R.A. drafting a compulsory arbitration bill. . . . Second Darrow report accuses Johnson of "making sinister changes" in retail code after it was supposedly approved. . . . Government estimates 17 million men, women and children were on Federal relief rolls in May. . . . Ku Klux Klan takes active and terroristic part in Alabama State elections. . . . Survey shows New York's \$22,500 a year General Sessions judges' work averages 3 hours 35 minutes a day exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays or holidays when they are off.

Tuesday—John Jacob Astor, after apologizing for threats, gets \$100,000 diamond ring back from girl he was engaged to last winter. . . . Relief workers in Cleveland demand restoration of 22 percent cut on relief. . . . Washington tells Great Britain war debts may be paid in goods instead of cash. . . . Clarence Darrow, Sinclair Lewis among large group signing demand Ernst Thaelmann be freed. . . . "Our membership is growing, so tide of depression has turned," Rotary International told during "radio meeting". . . . Suit declares Birmingham is bankrupt and asks appointment of receiver for city. . . . New York food prices found highest of any of country's cities. . . . Senate committee approves Tugwell for Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. . . . Roosevelt confers regarding establishment of official agency "to settle labor disputes"—without strikes. . . . On eve of steel workers' convention, Tighe drops all demands except that for recognition. . . . Butchers, meat workers and packing house workers of New York continue strike.