

of the masses. The Second Congress Against War and Fascism must be made a shattering blow at the war mongers, madmen and Fascist murderers here and abroad.

LAST week we announced the refusal of the Socialist Party Executive to accept immediately the united front proposals of the Communist Party. But the proletarian masses are not waiting on the decisions of those who indulge in dangerous parliamentary delay. In other lands, and here in the United States the movement toward unity of action grows in ratio to the movement of the ruling-classes toward war, toward Fascism. In France the Communist and Socialist parties are carrying out decisive actions together. In the Saar Basin, where Nazis are working day and night, by bribery, coercion and military preparation, to dictate the result of the Saar plebiscite, united front demonstration of Socialists and Communists have been held. Saar unity is supported by the ever increasing solidarity of the underground Socialists and Communists in Germany. In Spain, Mundo Obrero daily publishes resolutions from the Socialist and trade union locals expressing agreement with the Communist program. Italian Communists and Socialists have issued, from underground, joint appeals to Italian workers and soldiers to fight off war and Fascism. In Austria, the united front

of the Revolutionary Socialists, the Communists and the Joint Action Committee of the Schutzbund—former Socialist armed guard, now disbanded but existing illegally—has achieved important actions against war and the Schuschnigg regime. Similarly in America we have commented on the overwhelming defeat of Fascist elements in the historic Youth Congress held in New York last month. Joint demonstrations of the left-wing fur workers' Industrial Union and the International Fur Workers' Union take place in New York City against the A. F. of L. leadership. In Philadelphia the Young Peoples' Socialist League voted united front with the Young Communist League. In New Orleans the Socialist local and the League for Industrial Democracy issued a call to support the Second U. S. Congress Against War and Fascism to be held in Chicago late this month. Workers themselves, sweeping aside reactionary leaders, are declaring that the united front *must be* the order of the day.

RUBY and emerald colored dreams cherished by the American drug clerks of some day being the boss of a neat drugstore situated between the neons of the movie palazzo and the porcelains of the flash cafeteria, have faded into the land of conscious illusions for the great majority. The drug clerk today knows he is a worker and will re-

main a worker. But the drug clerks had to go through and come out of still another delusion. This was the attempt of the A. F. of L. to organize them by starting a racket which only lined the pockets of the organizers. The A. F. of L. adventure among the drug clerks has been thoroughly exposed; and an independent union, under consciously, militant leadership with a program of action, now totals 1,600 members. The Pharmacists' Union of Greater New York has conducted five successful strikes in various parts of the city, and owners are faced with the necessity of signing up with the union and hiring only union clerks. The Pharmaceutical Conference (an organization of drug-store owners) attempted to break the union by establishing a "Drug Clerk's Auxiliary" (read: company union). They tried to open the way for wage cuts by the N.R.A. technique of fixing a minimum of \$20 for 60 hours work. The Pharmacists' Union fought back with efficient picket lines, open air meetings and leaflets; they have now set up demands for a \$35 minimum for a 54-hour week, union recognition, abolition of the split shifts and a vacation for clerks employed one year or more. If the bosses refuse to comply they will face a general strike that may tie up thousands of stores in New York City.

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EDITORS:

STANLEY BURNshaw, MICHAEL GOLD, GRANVILLE HICKS, JOSHUA KUNITZ,
HERMAN MICHELSON, JOSEPH NORTH, ASHLEY PETTIS, WILLIAM RANDORF.
WILLIAM BROWDER, *Business Manager*.

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The Week's Papers

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 5—Two killed, 24 injured in general textile strike; Roosevelt appoints "impartial" arbitration board. . . . Mary Montagna, 13, Hazlet, N. J., shoots herself, probably mortally, when parents' poverty forces her to withdraw from school. . . . Aluminum Company of America strike is ended after month by "compromise" agreement. . . . Upton Sinclair, in Washington, says he's happy to be New Deal Democrat. . . . Upholsterers' strike wins in New York. . . . Eight billion dollars lent in 18 months by government chiefly to banks and corporations assuring their profits, new report by Donald Richberg reveals. . . . Chicago cleaners' and dyers' industry locks out 2,000 workers.

Thursday—Acting "Dictator" Huey Long moves entire National Guard into New Orleans; father of guardsman wires Senator Long he'll kill him "like

the mad dog you are" if harm comes to his son. . . . Horst Company Ranch, Dallas, Tex., largest hop yard in world, tied up by strike. . . . Strike at Brooklyn Edison Company averted when company reinstates discharged workers. . . . Army's "paper war" ends with imaginary invading "enemy" left "helpless." . . . Relief funds must be guarded "very carefully for those actually in need" Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Relief Administrator, declares in beginning new drive to limit relief rolls. . . . Mrs. Mooney's funeral cortege will halt at San Quentin in effort to permit Tom Mooney to take last look at mother.

Friday—Six strikers killed, 30 wounded in Honea Path, S. C., when deputized strike-breakers massacre pickets, using guns and revolvers; textile strike death toll now 10. . . . International Ladies' Garment Workers Union orders strike involving 150,000 unless trade makes effective Roosevelt order for 10 percent cut in hours, 10 percent wage rise. . . . Matthew Woll in Newark speech asks capital and labor to unite to defeat Communists "seeking to prevent amicable settlement" of general textile strike. . . . Thirty relief strikers injured in Phoenix, Ariz., when police with clubs and tear-gas bombs charge picket line. . . . Soviet-U.S. debt talks again break up when State Department

refuses to consider latest Soviet offer. . . . Huey Long mobilizes troops preparatory to declaring New Orleans under full martial law.

Saturday—Perkins brands as "dangerous and unfortunate" deputizing Honea Path strike-breakers, admitting action was responsible for 6 deaths. . . . Honea Path victims given mass funeral attended by 10,000 workers. . . . Rains bring slight relief in Kansas drought area. . . . Schools reopen Monday under increasing "economy programs." . . . "Economic emergency is worse than war," Justice Strahl, Brooklyn municipal court, declares, ruling worker is entitled to sue employer for wages under N.R.A. . . . Workingman's funeral given Mrs. Mooney after cortege is not permitted to stop at San Quentin.

Sunday—Cotton-textile employers reject union plan for arbitration. . . . Eight white men convicted in Manchester, Tenn., of murdering Negro tenant farmer and sentenced to jail. . . . Socialist Party nominates Mayor Jasper McLevy of Bridgeport for Governor of Connecticut. . . . New York restaurants plan to raise prices "to save industry from financial ruin." . . . U. S. has risen out of depths of its worst depression, is now on the upgrade, says Donald Richberg, in report revealing huge imperial-

ist war preparations. . . . William Hodson, New York Commissioner of Public Welfare, asks public to snoop by reporting cases of families getting relief and "not entitled to it." . . . A. F. of L. delegates of 22 locals vote for drive to obtain passage of Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill.

Monday—Federal employees' retirement fund "insolvent," with government \$2,000,000 in arrears to it, E. C. Babcock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees charges. . . . Insull's collapsed Middle West Utilities Company to be reorganized. . . . Houde Engineering Co., Buffalo, defies Labor Board ruling on majority rule in collective bargaining of labor. . . . Gov. Brann, Maine, reelected first Democratic Governor in State's history to be elected twice.

Tuesday—Eight textile strike pickets shot, 132 persons wounded as National Guard and deputies attack picket line at Sayville, R. I. . . . Foreign governments protest against disclosures made public at munitions probe. . . . Furniture Workers' Industrial Union wins victory when Newark Federal Court refuses injunction against picketing in Jersey City, where Corliss Lamont and Alfred M. Bingham were arrested, 13 pickets convicted and 4 indicted.

The Morro Castle Mystery

THE MORRO CASTLE, Havana-New York pleasure ship, of the Ward Line, carrying a passenger list of 318, and a crew of 244, blazed up early in the morning, as the boat moved through fog and storm up the Jersey coast. According to the testimony of Acting Captain William F. Warms, the fire was first reported to him at approximately 2.45. Saturday morning. In 25 minutes the ship became a roaring inferno, the entire midships blazing, tongues of fire shooting up from Deck B, the passenger deck which contained the saloon, the library, the ballroom, and the cabins. In the first frenzy that followed, according to the story, men and women flung themselves into the sea, the firehoses refused to work, the lifeboats on the portside were burned on their davits. A revised list puts the dead and missing at 135.

The Morro Castle, beached at Asbury Park, provided a ghoulis Roman holiday for the Chamber of Commerce, as hundreds of thousands of curiosity-seekers rushed to the scene. It is also providing one of the most sensational admiralty inquiries in years, with conflicting testimony and the shut-mouth policy of the Ward Line keeping the actual origin of the fire, and the reasons for its devastating progress, a mystery. The clearest feature of the inquiry in its early stages was the effort of the Ward Line to direct suspicion at some "unknown incendiary" and thus try to escape huge damage suits.

It is quite evident that the legal brain of Chauncey Clark, counsel for the Ward Line, has hatched a pretty formula for safeguarding the profits and capital of his employers, the ship owners. The caution with which Chief Offi-

cer Warms guarded his public utterances until an elapsing day had permitted him to partake of the legal astuteness of Mr. Clark, and the pat story of the "unknown incendiary" which was presented at the first public hearing of the case, indicate that Mr. Clark had assisted in unveiling the mystery of the Morro Castle.

Mr. Clark remembered that the sinking of the Vestris, a few years ago, off the Virginia Capes, brought with it a thousand damage suits totaling \$5,000,000. The echo of Mr. Warms' voice had not yet died out of the Customs House, when the Grace Line was taking up the cry that fires of "unknown" origin, one of which had broken out on their ship, the Santa Ruz, was really the work of an "international radical ring."

And in Havana, chief of port police, Senor Oscar Hernandez, declared that