

JULY 28, 1936

## Republican Relief

IF American voters want to know what unemployment relief will be like under Landon, let them turn to Republican New Jersey. That state has already put into operation the plank formally included in the G.O.P. platform to return "responsibility for relief administration to non-political local agencies."

According to a thorough and well-documented report of the American Association of Social Workers, food allowances in the majority of Jersey communities are now "from 50 to 75 percent below the minimum subsistence allowance granted during the period when the State Emergency Relief Administration was functioning." In nineteen communities persons on relief are working for food allowances—not cash—at the rate of 20 cents an hour. In ten communities persons without dependents are denied relief altogether, and in other areas whole families are excluded from aid for such reasons as "suspected resources" or because relief officers believe "they could find work."

Ten Jersey communities deny relief to residents of less than five years, no matter how destitute, and three rule out all aliens. In twenty-five areas no rent payments are made out of relief funds, no gas or fuel is provided for cooking in twenty-six districts, no electricity in thirty, and no clothing in fifteen. Twenty-eight communities bar relief to any family in which one person is employed, even if the amount earned is utterly insufficient to maintain minimum standards; and three districts send uniformed police to investigate all applicants for relief.

New Jersey's ruthless policy is the policy of the Republican Party. It finds its most eloquent champion in that leading G.O.P. mouthpiece, the New York Herald Tribune, which had been running a series of articles on how New Jersey broke "the relief trust" and introduced common sense into the relief situation. "Jersey Relief Cost Cut in Half as Citizens Do Job; N. Y. Urged to Follow" reads the head over one of these articles, in which their author, Emmet Crozier, says baldly: "For every case of 'slow starvation' in the



"Landon'll learn you boondogglers not to get sick!"

Ned Hilton

state today, due to local emergency, there are scores of men and women who have been rescued from an easy and futile existence on the dole."

A Republican Senate did its best to inflict Jersey "relief" on Pennsylvania. Reactionary forces are pushing toward the same goal in New York and elsewhere. The Landon forces have neatly hamstrung relief in Kansas pending the long-drawn-out passage of an amendment to the state constitution. Unemployment relief under Roosevelt has been inadequate—in some cases shamefully so. Under Landon it would be all but non-existent.

## Menus

FROM the New York World-Telegram of July 15:

Donald Hastie, 3, whose father, James Hastie, lost his job with the Na-

tional Battery Co. in North Bergen, January, lay dead today in the barrack Hastie tenement at 1203 Willow Avenue, Hoboken. He died at St. Mary Hospital of malnutrition and lead poisoning.

"We didn't have enough to eat after the State ended relief payments, and that's when Donald started going around and picking paint off the wall and eating it," said Mrs. Hastie. "Yes, I used to spend ten or fifteen minutes picking paint out of his teeth," said the dead child's mother. "But I couldn't stop him. He was always so hungry."

From the New York World-Telegram of July 16:

Interfering advisers who say that people should slow up on thick steaks and other rich foods after they pass fifty might put in a puzzling forty minutes staring at hale and hearty Charles

wab, seventy-four-year-old steel mager, as he tucks in his napkin and lies down for his lunch in the tropic-garden atmosphere of the Fantasy Room at Larue Restaurant. A scout from a neighboring table, had been spying on the genial millionaire, reports that Mr. Schwab's noon meal generally consists of eight clams, a bowl of chowder, a thick steak smothered with onions and potatoes, vegetable salad, coffee, and a rich dessert.

### *Whither the League?*

**W**ILL the end of the League of Nations be the outcome of the withdrawal of sanctions against Italy? The question may be answered better in the long in the actions of the League members on current threats against peace, coming mainly from Nazi Germany. And the final determination of British policy, whose present contradictory tendencies are so lucidly discussed by R. Me Dutt elsewhere in this issue, may prove decisive in shaping the answer. As if he intended to corroborate Earl Radek's analysis of the Austro-German agreement, Hitler has followed up his gains in Central Europe by the Nazis' formal repudiation of the League constitution, for which the League of Nations is authorized to act as guarantor. If the League does not intervene, the German annexation of Danzig is left to hinge only on Poland's objection, with the distinct possibility that Hitler may strike a bargain with Poland.

The Baldwin cabinet, after a typical display of sheepishness and hesitancy, has agreed to conversations with France and Belgium on what is to be done about Hitler's remilitarization of the Rhineland. The French are striving to rebuild and implement a collective barrier against German aggression—a barrier made necessary by the destruction of the Locarno Pact. Though Britain's position toward the French proposals has not yet been announced, she has shown little readiness to cooperate, and pro-Nazi British leaders are urging that she throw her weight against any measure which would strengthen collective security and the Franco-Soviet accord, while seeking to pave the way for Hitler's proposed Western Pact. That pact would give Hitler a free hand against the U.S.S.R.

**W**HILE the three-power conversations are taking place, Europe will still be staggering from the impact

of the Austro-German accord—an ominous warning of what lies in store if the hamstringing of collective security is allowed to continue. This new war alignment between Germany and Italy, threatening the status quo—and British interests—in Central Europe is a stunning reply to those British statesmen who argued that sanctions be lifted in order to keep Mussolini away from Hitler. Certain French diplomats, too, have been the victims of unrequited love—for despite their weak sanctions policy, Mussolini has veered sharply toward Hitler and will not as much as attend the present talks on the Rhineland occupation.

The fate of the League is of no small concern to humanity. The very efforts of Hitler to destroy it, ineffectual as the League has been made through the policies of some of its members, are a tribute to its possibilities as a peace instrument. It is to be hoped that the desire of the peace-loving masses of Europe will make itself plainly felt in the consideration of the Rhineland and Danzig questions. This desire is strongly for a League of Nations strengthened on the basis of genuine collective security against aggressors.

### *Unfit to Print?*

**W**HEN a court bites a labor law, it's news. But when it bites a publisher, that's merely back-page filler. Last December, District Court Judge Otis, out in Kansas City, decided that the Wagner Labor Relations Act and its offspring, the National Labor Relations Board, were unconstitutional. Now there are hundreds of district court judges, and their verdicts have only a passing importance, but to the capitalist press the Otis decision was big news. No less than eight stories streamed out over the A.P. wires, and both A.P. and U.P. sent the entire decision over their tickers. The story got front-page columns in all the leading dailies, and the Press Radio Bureau put the item on the air.

Last week a Circuit Court of Appeals, second only to the United States Supreme Court, upheld the Wagner Act. In a unanimous decision it sustained the N.L.R.B.'s order for the reinstatement of Morris Watson, A.P. editor who had been dismissed for his activities as vice-president of the American Newspaper Guild. The A.P. gave the story 250 words. The U.P., in a burst of professional courtesy, ignored

the decision completely. Of the major New York dailies, only the Post gave the story front-page space. The Times buried it on Page 13. The Herald Tribune assigned it to Page 7 and referred in its head to the "Watson Case" rather than the A.P. The World-Telegram hid it in a late edition, and the reactionary Sun spurned it altogether. The Press Radio Bureau, when asked why it failed to mention the decision in its broadcast, termed it a local affair, without national significance. Yet newspaper publishers condemn the Guild on the ground that unionized reporters might color the news!

### *Wells and Malraux*

**T**HE outstanding figures in literary Europe recently gathered in London to attend the congress of the International Association of Writers for the Defense of Culture. The aim of this association is to preserve all that is best in human culture against the assault of the barbarians. Julien Benda, famous French critic, summed up one aspect of the London congress when he said: "We must preserve those parts of our culture which are national, but not those which are nationalist."

André Malraux, leading novelist of young France, urged that culture be rescued from its tombs in museums and libraries for the sake of the people. He also proposed that the association prepare a big encyclopedia, a project suggested to him by Maxim Gorky and already supported by writers in many countries. H. G. Wells, present at the congress, said such an encyclopedia would cost too much, hinted at several millions.

"The cost of three battleships!" Malraux replied.

Wells left the congress, but Rebecca West, speaking for the English writers, supported the proposal for an encyclopedia. The British press reports that one of the most remarkable speeches in reply to the skeptical Wells was made by Ilya Ehrenbourg, famous Soviet novelist and special European correspondent for THE NEW MASSES.

### *New Champions*

**I**N the midst of the Nazi government's official crowing over the defeat of Joe Louis, a dozen Negro athletes have emerged from the American Olympic tryouts with smashing performances. The astonishing Jesse Owens has won three events, Cornelius



Johnson and David Albritton have broken the world's record for the high jump, young Woodruff has taken the 800-meter run, Williams the 400. To these champs, add Pollard, LuValle, Brooks, and the others who sailed on the Manhattan. The Negro athletes are equipped to strike a telling blow at the racial superiority theories of their prospective hosts. Naturally, for the brief duration of the games, these theories will be laid on the shelf, their practical effects carefully camouflaged. The elaborate program of deception which has been outlined would be sufficient to dazzle groups less impressionable than American college athletes on vacation. They will be taken through the Reichstag and shown exactly how those incendiary Communists had planned to raze the building and why it was necessary for the forces of law and order to take matters into their own hands. Berlin houses have been repainted, streets scrubbed, statues jugged around to show that things are in tip-top shape and would the visitors please return to their homes and tell their friends not to worry about unfounded canards in respect to concentration camps, anti-Semitic persecutions, blood purges, secret-service terror, and such. Past masters at kidding the public, the Nazis are now concentrating on kidding a few thousand athletes and

officials. Just how successful they will be in proving to Jesse Owens that Negroes can't run as fast as white men will be interesting to observe.

### Free Simpson!

**E**XACTLY one year and one month from the time of his arrest, Lawrence Simpson is scheduled to go to trial in the Nazi "People's Court." It was in June, 1935, that Hitler storm troopers boarded the American steamer Manhattan, tied up at Hamburg, broke into Simpson's locker, and dragged the American seaman off the ship. No formal charge was made, although officials intimated they had found anti-Nazi literature in Simpson's possession. For a year he was held in a concentration camp near Hamburg, without a semblance of a hearing, and has now been transferred to the infamous Moabit Prison in Berlin to await trial.

The charge against Simpson has still to be made public. The American State Department has a copy of the indictment but its chief for western-European Affairs, James Clement Dunn, refuses to reveal its nature for "diplomatic reasons." It is intimated, however, that the charges involve a number of Germans and that the stage is being set for another Nazi "treason" festival.

Mr. Dunn assures Simpson's father

that the American consulate will take every step to assure a fair trial, but in view of the State Department's record in this case, the assurance has a hollow sound. For a year the department has permitted an American citizen to remain in a concentration camp without a trial. It has stood by with a seemingly determined indifference while the Nazis denied the defendant the right to select counsel offered to him by the International Labor Defense. Simpson must accept Nazi lawyers, who will "defend" him behind closed doors.

The State Department is not as impotent as at times it would have one believe. Despite its apparent unwillingness to incur Nazi antagonism, it is clearly its duty to insist on Simpson's right to select his own attorney and to see that the entire record of the case is made available to counsel for the defense.

### Vanquishing Victor

**T**HE Radio Corporation of America is apparently no match for its workers. Production during the current strike has been cut 75 percent. Work on the 35-cent disks has been entirely suspended. The Montgomery, Ward "Conqueror" line of records has had to be farmed out by R.C.A. to its chief rival, the American Record Company of Bridgeport, Conn., which makes Columbia and Brunswick disks in its non-union shops. Production has been stopped on the new R.C.A.-Victor radio line, except for dealers' samples, and such records as are produced are reported to be of poor quality. Worst of all, Decca, R.C.A.'s rival in the popular record field, reports the biggest month's business in its history.

The jolt has been too much for R.C.A. It had to cry for help—and help has been forthcoming. Camden officials, rushing to the rescue, have resorted to mass arrest of pickets and the imposition of outrageous bail. At present 101 pickets are in jail, unable to meet bail amounting to \$523,000, an average of more than \$5,000 for each prisoner. A number of sharp skirmishes have taken place near the plant, in one of which ammonia bombs and acid were hurled from the windows, inflicting serious injuries on several pickets.

The Camden strikers are not easily downed. Plans have been drafted to continue the picketing in even greater numbers. R.C.A. would already be licked if it were not for Camden's lawless judges.

## new Masses

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### *The Mexican Strike*

**T**HE New York Times never fails us. This week, for instance, its Mexican correspondent quotes *La Prensa* at great length as giving the frankest analysis of the strike of three thousand workers against the Mexican Light and Power Company. *La Prensa*'s "frankness" consists in attacking President Cardenas for not halting the strike. The Times correspondent forgot to add that *La Prensa* speaks for the clerical-feudal reaction in Mexico. It has a long and dishonorable record as an agitator against progress and socialist education and aids the advocates of U.S. intervention.

The strike has been sustained as "legal" by the federal authorities. There is even talk of the government impounding the British-controlled company if it refuses to settle, and turning the plant over to the workers. While no United States capital is involved in this case, it seems that The Times does not like this idea. We find it rather appealing.

### *Paying Landon's Way*

**I**F YOU still doubt that the Republican Party works hand in glove with Wall Street and the Liberty League, consider the list of campaign contributions made public by the Republican National Committee. In the first two months of 1936,

three Morgan men donated a total of \$15,000 to the Hearst-Landon war chest. They were Junius Morgan, son of America's No. 1 banker; H. P. Davison, partner in the Morgan firm; and George F. Baker of the First National Bank, a Morgan outfit.

The du Ponts contributed \$5,000; so did Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., head of General Motors. Other donors were W. L. Mellon of Gulf Oil; Lester Armour of Armour Meat Products; Earl F. Reed of Weirton Steel, notorious anti-labor company; Harold S. Vanderbilt, director of thirty railway companies, and H. E. Mansville of the Johns-Mansville Company. None of these gave less than \$2,000 each.

## Spain Defends Democracy

**F**ACED with a democratic shakeup in the army, fascist and monarchist officers stationed in Morocco have launched an attempt to destroy the Spanish Republic. The long-drawn-out Rightist campaign of civil disturbance and economic sabotage has thus culminated in a counter-revolutionary putsch. In defiance of the people's will, Gil Robles and General Franco have set out to erect a military dictatorship. They seek not only to substitute fascist violence for existing civil rights, but to plunge the country back socially into the feudal-clerical abyss of the past. For months the fascists have protested their peaceful intent; they have poured out venomous accusations of violence and dictatorship against the partisans of the People's Bloc. Now Gil Robles and his fascist plotters have at last come out into the open, giving the world another object lesson in fascist integrity.

It is significant that the reaction has been obliged to base its hopes on the Moroccan troops, a body of men remote geographically, as well as every other way, from the mass of the Spanish people. Speculating upon the allegiance of these mercenary forces, and upon possible wavering among the more conservative supporters of the Republican government, the fascists apparently envisaged a march on Madrid in the manner of the bloodcurdling assault of General Doval's "Tercios" upon the revolutionary miners' battal-

ions in Asturias during October, 1934.

But the reaction appears to have badly overplayed its hand. Its efforts to drive a wedge in the People's Front by intimidating middle-class Republicans, have so far proven of little avail. For, once confronted with the fascist bid for power, middle-class Republicans and labor have closed ranks as never before, in defense of democracy. Revolutionary workers and simple upholders of Republican order have formed united combat squads. The People's Front, arming the populace for anti-fascist defense, drawing together in fighting formation the forward-looking elements of the entire people, is prov-

ing under duress to be the only effective barrier to fascism.

Nor has the reaction counted on the unity and revolutionary consciousness of a proletariat which came to know the lash of fascist inquisition in October, 1934. The fascist attempt has evoked a mobile and united army of Socialist, Communist and Syndicalist workers, many hundred thousand strong, a living barricade to the reaction, ready to emulate the miners of Asturias. Within the army itself the support which the fascists apparently expected on the mainland has, at this writing, not materialized to any significant extent. It would thus seem that the anti-fascist mood of the people has prevailed among the soldier mass as against the intrigues of the officer caste.

If the Republican government is victorious, as now seems probable, a more rapid pace in the application of the People's Bloc program may be expected of it, particularly in respect to disarming and incapacitating the reaction and forcing employers to comply with social legislation. A sharper leftward trend may be expected as a result of the greater unity and influence which the working class is now acquiring.

How stirringly the United Front goes forward in defense of the people against the trickery and terror of the fascist reaction, teaching the great lesson of our time: that the workers and their middle-class allies can by united action reap a bright future in a decaying world.



Helios Gomez