

Seamen Again Betrayed.

Socialist Labor Party Statement.

The General Secretary of the Socialist Labor Party (Mr. E. E. Judd), on behalf of the General Executive, on the 2/1/36, issued the following statement:—

"The workers should be told the truth."—Lenin.

As attempts are being made to lead the workers towards a similar industrial upheaval to that of 1917, the time is opportune for them to pause and face the facts.

The stage of Capitalist development wherein the working-class had a chance of securing improvements in working conditions, or preventing the worsening of conditions, by striking, has passed in all highly developed Capitalist countries—assuming, of course, that the Capitalist Class is prepared to resist such strikes. Strikes, for such purposes, are obsolete.

In such a strike as the Seamen v. the Shipowners, the determining factor is not a matter of what is just or unjust, but of which side (with its supporting elements) is the stronger. There is not a Craft Union, or aggregation of Craft Unions, in Australia that is stronger than the Capitalist Class and its State. Providing that the Capitalist Class and those administering its State are prepared to resist the Craft Unions, the struggle can end only one way—in the defeat of the Craft Unions.

Suppose the Seamen, Coal Miners, and others, are led or trapped into a great industrial upheaval! What is there that they can do now, with their present state of understanding and organisation, that they did not do in 1917, or that the Timber Workers and the Coal Miners did not do in 1929?

The circumstances in 1917 were far more favourable for victory in such a strike than they are now. What happened in 1917? Name one Union whose members did not have to return to work on the terms and conditions dictated by the employers.

The workers of Australia are divided into more than 600 Unions. They have neither the understanding nor the organisation that alone could give them a chance of victory in such a struggle.

Many workers will say: "Yes, what has been said is true, but are we to accept worse conditions (including licensing systems)?" The question implies that the workers are in a position to refuse. The implication is entirely unsound.

The workers have no choice in the matter. Their only choice is either to accept worse conditions when the employers commence to enforce such things or accept them after a struggle.

In other words, the workers' only choice is either to accept worse conditions, or worse conditions plus a few weeks or months' starvation.

The working-class will be forced to realise that from now till the end of Capitalism it will have to suffer, within certain limitations, whatever industrial conditions the Capitalist Class and its State choose to impose.

The workers should remember that the Capitalist Class and its State in Australia have never yet been "extended" in any industrial struggle with the workers, and that, at present, the workers' understanding is so poor, and their organisation and leadership so weak, that the Capitalist Class can defeat them without even unfolding its arms.

If the workers are led or trapped into a great industrial upheaval over industrial matters it will not be a fight, but a massacre, involving a great and useless increase of suffering and starvation for many thousands of men, women and children of the working-class, and the useless sacrifice of thousands of the best-spirited but ill-informed workers.

Re Seamen:—

The latest Seamen's Award contained matter calculated to goad the Seamen into going on strike.

The fake Communist Party and its place-hunters and dupes took advantage of the situation created by the Award and betrayed the Seamen.

A widespread industrial upheaval in Australia at present would suit the interests of big Capital.

Workers! Beware of those who advocate such an upheaval at present. They are either too ignorant or too unscrupulous to be trusted as leaders.

Lenin said that the one great Revolutionary Industrial Union is "the basic thing."

The Socialist Labor Party advocates the organisation of the Working Class in one great Revolutionary Socialist Industrial Union for the sole and exclusive purpose of ending Capitalism and inaugurating Socialism. That is the only hope for the workers of Australia.

(Note.—For further information re the foregoing matter, read the pamphlets entitled: "How to End Capitalism and Inaugurate Socialism," "The Case for the O.B.U.," and "Constructive Revolution." The aforementioned pamphlets are on sale at the Socialist Labor Party's Domain meeting (just below the Gymnasium). For further information inquire at the S.L.P. meeting or at its Headquarters. Attend the S.L.P. Domain Meeting each Sunday and hear the truth about War, Fascism, Strikes, etc.)

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