

Our Revolutionary Heritage;

Shays' Rebellion

By Leighton Rigby

Note: Hearst quotes Jefferson. But quotations, like statistics, can be so manipulated as to seemingly prove a black lie is a pious truth.

Yes, Hearst quotes Jefferson. But what about Thomas Jefferson's opinion of Shays' Rebellion? If it were not so horribly tragic, it would be amusing to watch the Hearstians as they avoid that opinion on tiptoe.

This article concerns Shays' Rebellion, the joy of the real Thomas Jefferson and a part of our revolutionary heritage.

When the "embattled farmers" stood by the rude bridge and "fired the shot heard 'round the world," they were inspired by dreams of freedom from tyranny.

The new tyrants did not quickly establish themselves. It was not until the Articles of Confederation were scrapped in favor of the Constitution that the new batch of oppressors were able to make their dictatorship secure.

In all fairness, we must take care not to magnify the size of the revolutionary group of 1776. Two-thirds of the population either opposed or showed no interest in the conflict.

As the pressure became daily more hard to bear, the farmers made no secret of their resentment. The spirit of revolt that had led them to boot out one gang of tyrants still smoldered, and each new stinging lash only served to fan higher the fire of indignation.

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C.L.U. Raps Meyer Lewis

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On Wednesday noon the Citizens Alliance held a meeting at the Radisson Hotel and outlined a plan to re-open Strutwear and break the 4-month strike—the bosses claimed their proposed action was on a "non-controversial basis."

The Citizens Alliance had taken Lewis at his word (he had previously come out against the hosier workers' strike) and thought they saw the chance to deliver a blow at the organized labor movement.

On Wednesday night Meyer Lewis went into the Central Labor Union meeting all primed to beat down opposition to his outrageous splitting program; for this purpose he was ready to wield the club of wholesale expulsion from the A. F. of L.

WORKERS

Protect Yourself Against the Hazards of Life. Join the WORKMEN'S SICK & DEATH BENEFIT FUND OF THE U.S. 1884-1935. Organized, managed by and for workers with only one purpose: to render protection to members and their families...

The significance of this event can only be understood if one recalls the impressive showing of the industrial unionists at the Atlantic City A. F. of L. convention, plus the recent move of the John L. Lewis group to wage a nation-wide campaign on behalf of industrial unionism within the A. F. of L.

Lewis Catches Train

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F. of L. purge, as had been announced. His subject was to be "The Attitude of the A. F. of L. toward the Minneapolis Situation." He further revealed how disturbed he was by the presence of the leaders of 574 by giving a loose, rambling talk.

At the end, the leaders of the revolt sought refuge in Canada, and Shays' revolutionists suffered disfranchisement at the hands of the Massachusetts legislators. The insurrection was put down, but not until the clash of arms had revealed the militancy of oppressed Americans.

The militant working class of today is the counterpart of the "embattled farmers" of yesterday. If they of 1776 believed democracy possible in spite of class antagonisms, the reason lies in their lack of experience.

Reserves Right to Refuse to Reply

After having finished with this rubbish, Meyer announced that he "reserved the right to refuse to answer any questions not put in the proper spirit."

One student asked Lewis why he had so far depended entirely upon publicity in the capitalist papers, and why he had not yet appeared before any unions? Lewis replied that in the six weeks that he had been here the C.L.U. had not met, but that he intended to appear before the C.L.U. the next day.

Brown Shoots a Question

Then Bill Brown got up. "I'm Bill Brown, President of 574," he announced. All eyes turned upon him. Lewis became excited and shouted, "Before you ask your question, I'll tell you I won't answer it."

C. P. Funks on 574

Events quickly showed how correct 574's stand was. The night prior to the mass meeting the Auto Mechanics Local 382 (the very local for whom 574 has done most in assisting to fight the bosses) met and decided to withdraw from the conference of progressive unions.

spot for labor?" Lewis, forced to make a reply, said that he was against 574 because it was against the principles of the A. F. of L., the first of which is that Green is the only prophet of American labor, and there is no other.

Lewis Has Enough and Screams When asked by a student why the members of 574 did not join local 500 if they were dissatisfied with their present leaders, Lewis replied, "How do you know they haven't joined?"

So dramatic was the appearance of Bill Brown at this meeting; so witty his remarks to Lewis, that the next evening the University of Minnesota "Daily" broadcasted the highlights of the Forum meeting as part of its regular newscast.

Shachtman Holds First Meeting in Fresno, Cal.

FRESNO, Cal., Nov. 14.—Max Shachtman spoke to a group of twenty people at a meeting under the auspices of the Fresno branch of the Workers Party tonight.

His talk on the subject of "War and the Working Class" was well received. Many questions were asked and answered to the satisfaction of an enthusiastic audience.

This was the first public meeting held by the Fresno branch since it was organized less than one month ago, and although the turnout was small it speaks well for a town which is considered by many to be reactionary and apathetic.

Textile Barons Ready For War

"The outbreak of a war involving the United States would find the cotton textile industry well prepared for rapid mobilization of its resources, the United States Army Industrial College was assured today by George A. Sloan."

Mr. Sloan, who was formerly president of the Cotton Textile Institute, the One Big Union of the cotton mill magnates, told the Army college that the Institute "has developed a splendid technique for determining the facilities for manufacturing the various types of cotton products that the nation would need in time of war."

Support Italian Comrades In Their Struggle Against Fascism and War

MUSSOLINI must go. But with Mussolini, ITALIAN CAPITALISM must also go. OUR ITALIAN COMRADES HAVE CONSTITUTED a Coordination Committee for the Revolutionary Struggle in Italy. This Committee of Coordination has issued a manifesto to the Italian soldiers, to the youth, to the Italian mothers, to the workers and peasants that:

'Social Credit' Goes Begging

A terrible fate has overtaken the Social Credit movement—it has a chance to put its theories into practice. In the last Canadian elections the Social Crediters swept the province of Alberta, Canada, under the leadership of Premier Aberhart, promising a social credit paradise of \$25 per month to man, woman and child within eighteen months after election.

THE MANAGER'S CORNER

Table with 3 columns: City, Quota, and Total. Lists various cities and their contributions to the Workers Party campaign. Total: 1,000.

WORKMEN'S SICK AND DEATH BENEFIT FUND 51st JUBILEE CELEBRATION WITH BALL SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1935, 3:30 P.M. ST. NICHOLAS PALACE, 66th St. and Columbus Ave. - Concert - Varieties - Ball - Guest Speaker: NORMAN THOMAS Tickets: Advance 25c; at box office 40c.

The Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Fund, for more than half a century a pioneer in the field of Fraternal Insurance and advocate of Social Insurance, will celebrate its 51st anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 24, at St. Nicholas Palace, 66th Street and Columbus Avenue, New York.

