

What Congress Wants to Do Against Workers

By JAY LOVESTONE.

ARTICLE III.

The Hayden and Taylor Bills.

THE bills introduced by Congressman Hayden of Arizona and Congressman Taylor of Colorado provide for a veritable deluge of deportations.

The Hayden bill appears to be a very innocent measure. It declares for the punishment by imprisonment, not more than three years, and by a fine of not more than \$2,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment for any foreign-born worker who has come back to the United States after being deported. In order to hit as many as possible of the foreign-born workers, the Hayden bill also proposes to apply this measure to those "who may hereafter be deported from the United States in pursuance of law." Mere attempt to re-enter is sufficient to entail for the worker this severe punishment.

Prison and Deportation en Masse.

In an effort to guarantee that the workers will be punished to the limit, the Hayden proposal declares that the deportation shall not take place "until after the termination of such imprisonment."

There is practically no difference whatsoever between the bill proposed by Congressman Taylor of Colorado and the one proposed by Mr. Hayden. Any attempt of a deported worker to return to the United States will be considered a felony and imprisonment for not more than three years or a fine of not more than \$2,000 or a combination of the two will be the reward.

Hundreds of workers have already been deported from the United States. Only a very small proportion of the great mass of workers deported in the notorious Palmer raids can be called mental defectives or afflicted with contagious diseases, or insane. In the main, these workers were deported for having ideas dangerous to the continued rule of the United States by the exploiting class.

While these measures are before the house committee on immigration,

the executive arm of the government is being prepared to smite the foreign-born workers and consequently the whole working class. Bills are now being framed to appropriate huge sums of money to enable the government agents to round up foreign-born workers who, in their opinion, are deportable or who, in their opinion, should be sent back to the countries of their nativity regardless of the consequences in store for the deportees. A bill has already been reported appropriating an additional million dollars for the immigration service. Most of this money will be used to deport foreign-born workers supposed to be here in violation of the law.

According to Mr. Carl White, assistant secretary of labor, there are in the United States at least 250,000 foreign-born workers who are deportable under the existing laws. One need not ponder much to conclude that there will be many more thousands of such workers eligible for deportation after the vicious Hayden and Taylor bills are enacted. Commissioner of immigration Harry E. Hull goes Mr. White better, and says that the number of foreign-born workers who may be deported even under the present statutes approaches the sum of 1,300,000.

Will Spend Money Without Limit.

WE have heard very much about the worries of Coolidge and his clique as to the cost of government. The fact of the matter is that Coolidge and his cabinet are worried regarding the cost of government only when such expenditures benefit the masses. But the agents of Wall Street do not seem to be worried in the least at this time when they have considered that it would cost twenty-five million dollars to deport 250,000 foreign-born workers.

Immigration Commissioner Curran recommended that at least \$345,000 should be appropriated for the expense to be entailed in deporting foreign-born workers in New York. This was not enough, according to Mr.

Curran. He called it only a good start. The significant fact is that the plan of the government is to make a frontal attack for deportation of the workers in such centers as New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Buffalo, Chicago and St. Louis. These are the principal industrial centers of the country. In these districts one will find the heaviest congregation of foreign-born workers because it is in this territory that the biggest basic industries of the country are located.

These are rather auspicious plans for the Wall Street government. The deportation and registration laws must not be considered as isolated items by themselves. These attempts of the capitalists are obviously only part of a general campaign. They are part of a whole plan worked out to destroy the effectiveness of the American workers—of all the workers in America, regardless of their nativity—fighting back against the continuous encroachment of the bosses on the working conditions and the standards of living prevailing in the United States.

The American capitalists are preparing for intensified competition in the world market. They feel that in order to hold their own they must intensify the exploitation of the workers. The workers' standard of living must be reduced. Consequently, the unions must be smashed. In order to smash the unions, what must be done is to attack the weakest sections of the working class, to divide the workers on artificial lines and thus to crush more easily the proletarian forces.

REMEMBER MARCH 5.

Workers are urged to reserve March 5 so they can hear and welcome Walter Trumbull at the International Labor Defense rally at the North Side Turner Hall. The other speakers are: Professor Robert Morss Lovett, Ralph Chaplin and Max Shachtman.