

tionary and living example firing the aspirations of the Negro people for freedom. In more recent times, can we forget the heroic struggle of the Elaine, Arkansas (1919), Camp Hill and Reeltown, Alabama (1931 and 1933) share-croppers against the plantation masters? Or the thousands of Negro workers who have fought shoulder to shoulder with the white workers in strikes and on picket lines? And in other parts of the world: the glorious tradition of the Haitian Revolution, of the Maroons of Jamaica, of the victorious rebels of Dutch Guinea, Scottsboro demonstrations in Cuba and Africa?

During the Civil War, and immediately after, the Negro masses fought bravely. They were defeated—for they had no allies. The Northern ruling class betrayed them. But today they have a powerful, thoroughly dependable ally, the working class. Together they can create a new world.

III. THE NEGRO IN SOVIET AMERICA

What will our revolution create? What will the new world be like? What will be the place of the Negro people in this new society?

We do not need to be prophets. On the basis of our present possibilities and of the new paths already laid bare in the Soviet Union, it is possible to at least outline the main features of the new society. These are not empty visions, drawn out of the thin air. We know the causes of our present condition. We know how to remove them. We can foresee with certainty the minimum of what can be done once capitalism is replaced by socialism.

This knowledge should fire us with great zeal in our present task of organization and struggle. For we know with certainty what we are striving for.

The Soviet United States

The peoples of the Soviet Union had to overcome great difficulties in the building of Socialism. The country was a backward one, the working class was relatively small and untrained. New industries had to be built. The peasants had to learn modern methods in agriculture.

The Soviet United States, on the other hand, will have received a tremendous heritage of large-scale industries, of the most modern and up-to-date technique. It will have at its dis-

posal the largest industries of the world. In most parts of the country the farmers will already have been trained in modern methods of agriculture. There is a skilled working class trained in the ways of highly developed technique. Railroads thread the whole country. Great wealth has already been created.

In addition, the country is rich in natural resources, such as land, coal, ore, oil, water power, lumber, etc., which can be turned into sources of undreamt of prosperity for the population.

Once this wealth is no longer private property and has become the property of the Soviet republic, it can be used, not for the purpose of exploiting human beings, but to fulfil all the needs of the people.

Today there is no work for millions, who as a result do not have the means to live. Under a Soviet America our industry can be put to work at full blast, turning out a tremendous amount of the necessities of life. Almost overnight human want can be made to disappear. But not only this. Long hours of work, inhuman speed-up, the hard labor of children and of old people will no longer be necessary. Amidst the great abundance of the country, it will be possible to cut down on the length of the working day, establish a more healthy pace of work, and yet produce more than is sufficient to meet the needs of society and to create new capital for further growth and expansion. The opportunities for education and culture will be boundless.

All this must be kept in mind when considering how the Negroes will fare in a Soviet America.

In the first place all hindrances, barriers, discriminations will be removed. All the opportunities created by a Soviet America will be shared by the Negroes as well as the whites. Industry, agriculture, public and social service will be open to them on the same basis as to all other citizens of the Soviet Republic.

But this would not be sufficient. Capitalism has left a heritage which has to be obliterated if the possibility of real equality is to exist. Capitalism has retarded and held back the advance of the Negro people with the result that its workers have not had the same opportunity as the white workers to become skilled; Negroes have not been permitted to become highly trained technicians and experts; discrimination has barred the Negroes from equal opportunities in the line of education, science, the professions, managerial knowledge, etc. Soviet America would there-