

Red Cross Tries to Hide Suffering of Town and Country Millions

By CYRIL BRIGGS

As the leading boss agency in the unemployment racket, the role of the Red Cross is to cover up as much as possible the terrible suffering and misery of the starving millions of urban workers and of the share croppers, tenant farmers and poor farmers while handing out the absolute minimum of "relief" in those sections where the "danger of bloodshed" forces the panic-stricken local bosses to appeal to the Red Cross to come in with its skimpy hand-outs and slave-driving methods of exploiting the starving workers.

This role has been sharply exposed in the cynical opposition of the Red Cross charity fakers to having Congress appropriate \$25,000,000 for "relief" of starving populations in the South. This opposition, in face of admissions by bankers, capitalist newspapers and others that entire sections of starving populations are at present denied even the meager hunger-existence rations of the Red Cross, is in line with the long record of the Red Cross as one of the most vicious boss instruments against the working class.

Starve Negro, White Share Croppers

In the state of Arkansas, thousands of Negro and white share croppers, tenant farmers and poor farmers are starving while the Red Cross plays Hoover politics in opposing any appropriation by Congress for these, and other starving workers. In the meantime, the boss press is forced to admit that "with or without the seed loan, they starve unless the Red Cross or some other agency feeds them." The same boss press also has to admit "that even the comparatively few families receiving Red Cross pittances are still starving:

"Not that families are getting a ration which would be looked upon in normal times as sufficient." (New York Times).

Force Workers to Slave for "Meal"

In the few sections where the Red Cross is peddling its "relief," the starving workers are fed a hunger ration that costs the Red Cross the sum of 3 cents a meal—for the actual ingredients, not counting the graft and overhead which take up the bulk of the "relief" funds of all of these boss charity fakers' organizations.

The boss press boasts that the starving workers and agricultural laborers and their families are now getting accustomed to privation:

"One little tot in the 'soup line' at the school remarked, 'I'm getting so I don't mind going without my supper now.'" (New Orleans Times Picayune).

Work in Wet Trenches Scantily Clad

For the skimpy hand-outs of the Red Cross, the workers are forced to slave for the Red Cross or the rich planters. Most of the share croppers are put to work in wet trenches and cleaning up drainage districts for their "meals." They are forced to work at least two days a week for the Red Cross, the county or the rich plantation owners. The New Orleans Times Picayune, in a report on conditions in Arkansas, in which most of the ugliest facts are covered up as usual in capitalistic press reporting on working-class misery, admits that:

"Some of these (share croppers) have been reporting for their Red Cross allotments with shoes worn through in the sole and clothed only in a shirt and overalls."

Thus scantily-clad and without adequate protection against the weather

and the wet trenches they are forced to work in and on the plantations. In some places, the Red Cross cooperates with the rich landowners in the enslavement of the share croppers. Instead of "meals" they make an allowance of \$2 weekly per couple, plus 50 cents additional for each child, up to five children. Those families, and there are many, who have more than five children, are left to feed the additional children as best they can. Many share croppers, particularly the Negroes, are forced to work for their landlords (big landowners) for \$1 a week, plus \$1 from the Red Cross. For these there is not even the 50 cents additional for each child up to five. Under this cash allowance, a couple having no children are allowed 14 cents a day each. A family of seven (parents and five children) are allowed 64 cents a day, or 9 cents each day for each member of the family. A family with more than five children must feed each member on less than 9 cents a day. A family with ten children, for instance, would have to get along at 6 cents each a day.

Negro and White Workers! Share Croppers, Tenant Farmers, Poor Farmers! Fight against this lousy charity! Demand unemployment relief as the right of the workers who have created the wealth of the country. Refuse to be put on charity hunger-rations and the soup lines; Support the struggle of the Communist Part and they revolutionary trade unions for the Unemployment Insurance Bill. Support the Hunger Marches to your State capitals and the national capital! Join the unemployment demonstrations Feb. 10th and Feb. 25th