

Foster Appeals for Funds For Our Hundred Neediest-- Jailed First Rank Fighters

By William Z. Foster

One of the highest duties of the working class is to its fighters who have been put behind the bars. To these brothers who have given their freedom, who have in many cases put their lives in jeopardy for the cause of freedom, we owe a debt of solidarity and help which can never be repaid in full.

These are the front rank fighters, the men and women of the vanguard. In America some of the greatest heroes of the working class struggle are now in prison. When we think of Tom Mooney, Warren K. Billings, J. B. McNamara and Matt Schmidt, the Sacramento fighters, the Gallup miners, the Oklahoma unemployed, the Kentucky miners, the Tallapoosa sharecroppers, and the scores of others serving life terms down to a year in jail, we cannot but think of the inspiration these men and women are to us outside.

Throughout the year it is our task to maintain contact with these prisoners, to lighten the load of their imprisonment as much as possible, especially to take care of those hostages they left outside—their wives and children. The Prisoners' Relief work of the International Labor Defense becomes the work of the whole labor movement.

Especially at this holiday season, when the mockery of jovial celebration echoes hollowly through the prison walls, when the destitute wives and families of our prisoners hear the chanting of songs and the sound of merry-making and goodwill—our duty to them is made clear. It is to see that they feel the solidarity of their fellow-workers with all the extra force of the season's spirit. Their bodies must be warmly clothed. They must receive direct material aid with the solidarity greetings of the whole mass of the people taking part in the Christmas Drive of the International Labor Defense behind them.

Support the Christmas campaign of the International Labor Defense. Send your solidarity funds to the Christmas Drive, Prisoners' Relief Department, International Labor Defense, Room 610, 80 East Eleventh Street, New York City.