

ones) was not open to the press. Arkansas sharecroppers, asked him why A.A.A. had suppressed the report of its own investigator Mary Conner Myers who revealed conditions in Arkansas "worse than in Belgium during the famine."

"That was just an investigation of incidents looking toward legal action," said Davis. But he was unable to cite any instance where legal action had been used to force plantation owners to pay the penalties specified by law for violation of cotton-reduction contracts.

"The federal government has no responsibility for enforcing civil liberties." This was Under-Secretary of Agriculture Tugwell's answer when several grey-haired delegates told him they had been driven from their homes by plantation bosses' night riders. One Negro of sixty-seven wore his arm in a sling, paralyzed by a stroke which followed a two-day flight from home. He kept repeating "I've got no place to go."

Neither has the governor of Arkansas such responsibility nor local officials to whom union members have gone for protection from the terror (unleashed since Washington's tacit approval of suppression of the Myers report).

Ward Rodgers, Arkansas school teacher sentenced to six months' imprisonment for activities as organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, wanted to know where sharecroppers could turn for their rights. Tugwell didn't know. "Don't come to men like me who know your troubles and sympathize," said Tugwell, "go to Robinson and Bankhead and get them to frame legislation that will protect you."

Sharecropper delegates are demanding that the pending Bankhead Bill be amended to make it illegal to attach crop-reduction checks or to assign them to others for payment. Such practice now makes widespread the situation in which tenant farmers never see their cotton-reduction checks, but are forced to sign papers turning them over to plantation owners. The delegation also demands that the new bill guarantee them a decent standard of living and the right to organize into unions of their own choosing.

The sharecroppers are telling their troubles to Miller, chief of the Complaint Section of the Cotton Section of the A.A.A. On the basis of past experience, however, they expect little help from officialdom. "We Negroes and whites have got to organize together to fight for our rights," they say.

Youth in Action

THE exposé by James King in this issue of the sinister schemings of "American Youth Congress, Inc." is instructive and revealing. It should be remembered that the Louisville venture was the fourth attempt to form a mass fascist youth movement. Similar attempts were made by the same clique in New York, in New Brunswick, in Davenport. Each time the progressive youth administered a sound trouncing to the youthful disciples of Hearst and Macfadden.

But the activity of the anti-fascist youth has not been confined to the work of defeating the fascists on their own chosen battlefields. Out of Viola Ilma's ill-fated First American Youth Congress there developed a genuine united front youth movement—the American Youth Congress, which has spread over the United States with the undoubted power of a great mass movement.

Much has been done by the American Youth Congress toward uniting the most diverse types of youth organizations around a clear cut and positive program on the questions confronting the young generation: war, fascism, unemployment, industry, education, Negro rights.

Since last August, when Ilma was defeated in New York by a united front of Socialist, Communist, religious and "conservative" youth, the American Youth Congress movement has dug roots in many cities. Local continuations committees of the American Youth Congress have been set up in New York City, Rochester, Schenectady, Buffalo, Albany, Newark, Patterson, New Haven, Hartford, Providence, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Macoupin County (Ill.), Detroit, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Louisville, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In the nine months of its existence, the American Youth Congress has become a social and political force. It has to its credit the memorable National Youth Conference in Washington, attended by over 250 delegates, representing 600,000 youth from all parts of the country. This conference besieged President Roosevelt, Robert Fechner of C.C.C. fame, and various state representatives and senators with delegations demanding enactment of H. R. 2827.

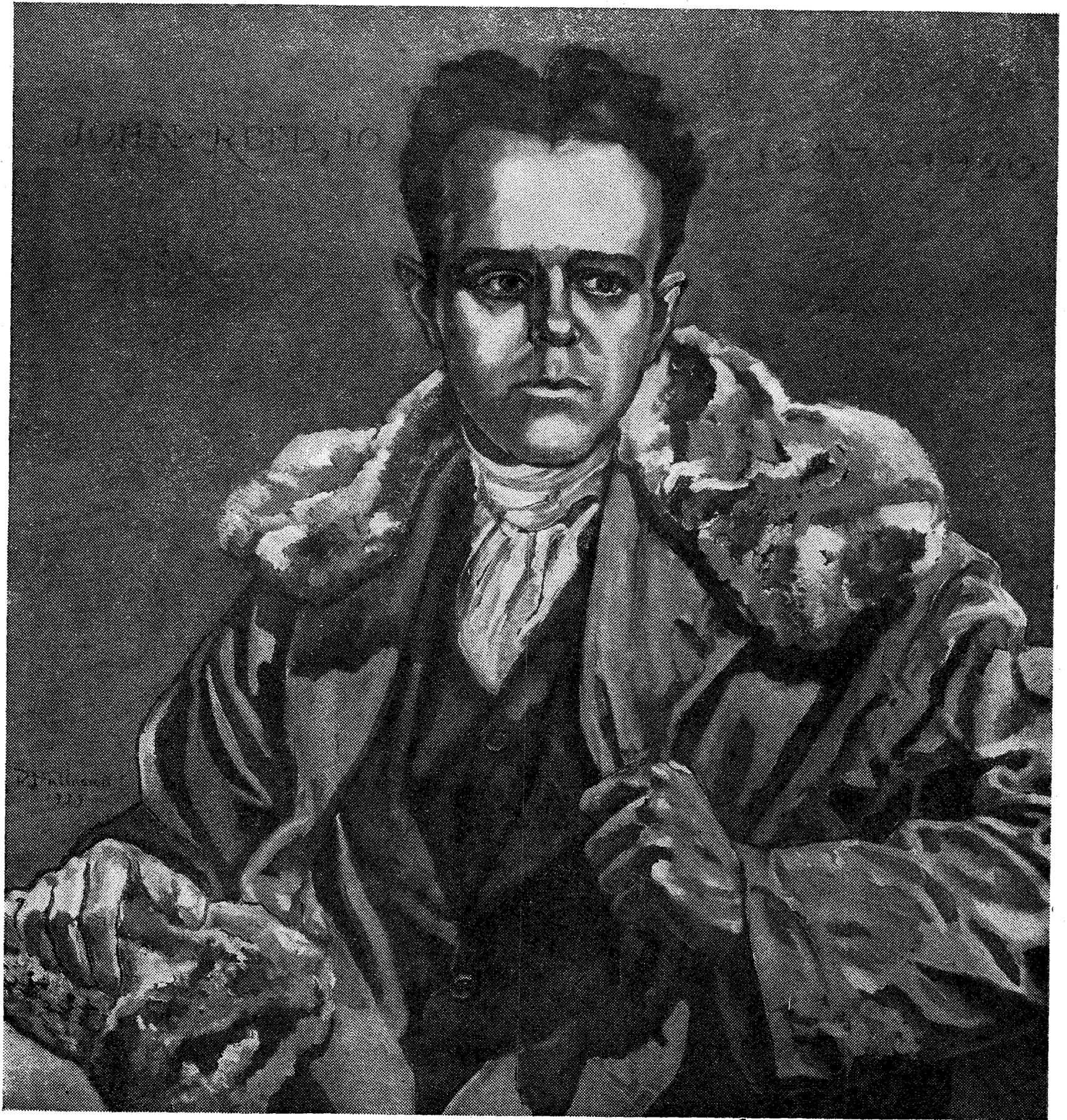
It was one of the participating or-

ganizations which issued the call for, and helped carry through, the impressive student strike against war on April 12 together with the Student League for Industrial Democracy, the National Student League, the Methodist Youth Council and the Youth Section of the American League Against War and Fascism. Now it is organizing parades and demonstrations against war and fascism for May 30, Memorial Day—in over fifty cities by current count. It is estimated that in New York City alone, upward of 35,000 will parade and demonstrate.

Probably the most ambitious undertaking of the American Youth Congress is its Second American Youth Congress, to be held in Detroit on July 4, 5, 6, 7. Preparations are under way now to bring 2,000 representatives of organized youth to this Congress to summarize the accomplishments of the American Youth Congress movement in the past year, to discuss the program adopted at the First Congress in the light of new developments and the actions recorded above, to clothe the movement in the organizational forms demanded by its rapid growth and influence and to adopt on this basis a Declaration of the Rights of American Youth. The first draft of this Declaration of Rights will be read at a torchlight mass meeting in Detroit on the evening of July 4.

The powers that be are fearful of the strength and potentialities of the American Youth Congress movement in the struggle against growing fascist tendencies. As an opening counterblast the Detroit Board of Education has refused the Arrangements Committee of the Congress the use of Cass Technical High School auditorium for the sessions of the Congress. Protests at this arbitrary denial should at once be forwarded to Mr. Cody, President of the Board of Education, Detroit, Michigan.

Those interested in further details of this Congress may communicate with Waldo McNutt, Chairman of the National Continuations Committee of the American Youth Congress at 112 East 19th Street, New York, or with Marion Gilpin, chairman of the Detroit Arrangements Committee for the Second American Youth Congress, at the Hotel Statler, Room 248, Detroit.



JOHN REED

Robert Hallowell

John Reed's body rests in the wall of the Kremlin, in Moscow's Red Square; his portrait reproduced above, is now to hang in Adams House, Harvard University, together with pictures of George Washington, John Adams and other leaders of the American Revolutionary War.

A committee of Harvard alumni undertook about a year ago to have the portrait painted. It was executed by Robert Hallowell, Harvard '10, an intimate friend and class mate of John Reed. After ten days of consideration the Harvard authorities have just accepted the portrait.

"As is clear from the personnel of the committee," a letter

to President Conant of Harvard, offering the portrait as a gift, stated, "its members hold various political opinions. And it is not the object of this committee to endorse the particular political beliefs of John Reed. Our aim is to honor the memory of an outstanding Harvard man of whom all Harvard men may well be proud."

The committee consisted of Corliss Lamont, '24, secretary-treasurer; Roger Baldwin, '05; Heywood Broun, '10; Robert Hallowell, '10; John Herling, '28; Granville Hicks, '23; Edward E. Hunt, '10; Robert Morss Lovett, '92; Lee Simonson, '09.