

Report of Louis C. Fraina, International Secretary of the Communist Party of America, to the Executive Committee of the Communist International.

(Continued from Page 4)

coming more acute, the national administration of the party acted. The National Executive Committee met in May determined to "purge" the party of the Left Wing. The N. E. C. was brutal and direct in its means: it refused to recognize the results of the elections, declaring them illegal because of "frauds." It issued a call for an emergency national convention on August 30, which was to decide the validity of the elections, meanwhile appointing an "investigating committee." But in order to insure that the convention would "act right," the N. E. C. suspended from the Party the Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Hungarian, South Slavic, Lettish, and Lithuanian Federations, and the Socialist Party of Michigan State. In all, the N. E. C. suspended 40,000 members from the party—a deliberate, brazen move to control the election of delegates to the convention.

The charge of "fraud" was an easily detected camouflage. The elections were so overwhelmingly in favor of the Left Wing candidates as to prove the charge of fraud itself a fraud. For international delegates the vote was (excluding three states, where the returns were suppressed, but which would not alter the results), Left Wing candidates: John Reed, 17,235; Louis C. Fraina, 14,124; C. E. Ruthenberg, 10,773; A. Wagenknecht, 10,650; I. E. Ferguson, 6,490—Right Wing candidates: Victor L. Berger, 4,871; Seymour Stedman, 4,729; Adolph Germer, 4,622; Oscar Ameringer, 3,184; J. L. Engdahl, 3,510; John M. Work, 2,664; A. I. Shiplacoff, 2,346; James Oneal, 1,895; Algernon Lee, 1,858. Louis B. Boudin, who was pro-war and against the Bolshevik Revolution, secured 1,537 votes. The Left Wing elected 12 out of 15 members of the National Executive Committee. The moderates who had been dominant in the Socialist Party were overwhelmingly repudiated. Kate Richards O'Hare (supported by the Left Wing, although not its candidate) defeated Hillquit for International Secretary, 13,262 to 4,775.

The N. E. C., after these desperate acts and after refusing to make public the vote on the referendum to affiliate with the Communist International, decided to retain office until the convention of August 30, although constitutionally it should have retired on June 30.

The issue was now definite. No compromise was conceivable. Events were directly making for a split and the organization of a new party. The Old Guard was concerned with retaining control of the Socialist Party organization, even if minus the bulk of the membership; the Left Wing was concerned with the principles and tactics.

5. The National Left Wing Conference and After

Just prior to the session of the National Executive Committee, Local Boston, Local Cleveland and the Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party of New York City, issued a call for a National Left Wing Conference, which met in New York City on June 21. The Conference was composed of 94 delegates representing 20 states, and coming overwhelmingly from the large industrial centers, the heart of the militant proletarian movement.

There was a difference of opinion in the Conference as to whether a Communist Party should be organized immediately, or whether the struggle should be carried on within the Socialist Party until the emergency convention August 30. The proposal to organize a new party immediately was defeated, 55 to 38. Thereupon 31 delegates, consisting mostly of the Federation comrades and the delegates of the Socialist Party of Michigan, determined to withdraw from the Conference. The majority in the Conference decided to participate in the Socialist Party emergency convention, all expelled and suspended locals to send contesting delegates; but issued a call for a convention September 1 "of all revolutionary elements" to organize a Communist Party together with delegates seceding from the Socialist Party convention.

(Continued next week)

THE WORKER IN STEEL

(Continued from Page 2)

while a third plant reported a decrease of about 11%, affecting approximately 50% of the employees. A 10% decrease, which affected three-eighths of the employees, was made by one concern, and about 1% of the force in one plant were decreased approximately 9%. Three plants reported percentage decreases of 6, 5 and 3, affecting one-third of the employees, 10% of the force and about 50% of the employees, respectively.—(July Monthly Review, p. 137.)

May 15 to June 15: One establishment gave the entire force an increase of 15%. The hot mill tonnage men in one plant received an increase of 3½%. One concern granted a small general increase. Respective decreases of 19.6% and 11.7%, affecting the puddle-mill and the finishing-mill workers, or 45% of the employees, were reported by one establishment. One plant decreased the tonnage men in the bar and sheet departments 17½% and 12½%, respectively. A decrease of about 6%, affecting about 3½% of the employees, was made by one establishment.—(August Monthly Review, p. 172.)

The steel strike is all the commentary that is needed in connection with these facts. Against all the determined and ruthless efforts of the steel exploiters against unionism, enough progress has finally been made for the calling of this strike. The desire for human existence will carry the workers to the next fight, and then to the next.

International Mass Meeting

Auspices of the Communist Party of America

TO PROTEST AGAINST THE MILITARY INVASION AND MARTIAL LAW AT GARY

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 8 P. M. Car Men's Hall, Ashland & Van Buren

Workers, unite against the suppression of Strikes by Military Force. Stand by the workers of Gary in their struggle against the capitalist class. Come in thousands and show your solidarity.

ADMISSION FREE.