

# Communist Propaganda in Russia

**B**EARING in mind the necessity of a firm and lasting alliance between the proletariat and the poorest peasants and peasants of medium means, also bearing in mind the political darkness, the general ignorance, and the low standard of agricultural knowledge in the villages, which are serious obstacles and which condemn the poorest peasantry and the peasantry of medium means to poverty and stagnation,—the Communist Party is compelled to pay most serious attention to the matter of education in the villages in the broadest sense of the word.

For the purpose of educational activities in the villages the following elements must co-operate:

1. Communist propaganda;
2. General education;
3. Agricultural education.

1. Political propaganda in the villages must be carried on among the literate peasants as well as among the illiterate.

The propaganda among the literate must consist first of all in the distribution of popular literature and newspapers of a Communist character, specially prepared for this purpose. Such literature must be sold at very low prices in schools, reading huts, and in all Soviet stores.

It is necessary to strive for the organization of reading rooms in every school with a political department, and that such reading rooms should be in every village People's House; and, in places where there are not such People's Houses, popular political books must be an essential part of every reading hut.

courses for children, and especially for adults—the academic as well as the special (agricultural, for instance)—must include: (1) popular history of culture from a scientific Socialist point of view and with a specially-prepared part devoted to Russian history and to the history of the Great Russian Revolution; (2) the interpretation of the Soviet constitution. For both of these courses proper text-books are to be prepared immediately.

The teachers are obliged to look upon themselves as upon agents not only of a general but also of a Communist education.

In this respect they must be subjected to the control of their immediate heads, as well as of the local party organizations.

Moving picture houses, theatres, concerts, exhibitions, etc., inasmuch as they will reach the villages (and all effort are to be exerted for this purpose), must be utilised for Communist propaganda directly, i.e., through the upkeep of these and also by way of combining these with lectures and meetings.

Departments of public education—provincial and county—with the assistance and under the control of the local party organizations, must organize collegiums of propagandists who are partly permanent, i.e., attached to their locality, and partly travelling, i.e., such as will cover a more or less wide section.

In the big city centres it is necessary that the party organizations should form collegiums of propagandist-instructors (in accordance with the local organs of the Commissariat of Education), who would carry on a travelling propaganda directly among the masses, and also instruct the less experienced comrades in the localities.

In this connection the convention calls special attention to the possibility of utilis-

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ing the work of the regiments of industrial workers, who are under the direction of the All-Russian Soviet of Professional Unions.

For the illiterate, periodical readings must be arranged in the schools, on the premises of the volost (county) Soviet of Deputies, in the reading huts, etc., for which purpose the departments of public education, with the assistance of the local party organizations, create special circles of readers, including the local teaching staff, with obligatory readings by the literate elements. The subjects of the readings should be the decrees and administrative orders of the Soviets, together with specially-prepared popular interpretations sent out by the centres (party or Soviet Centres), also stories for readers, which are being constantly revised. It would be advisable to accompany such reading with illustrations by way of motion pictures or stereopticon slides; also with a reading of fiction, as well as concerts for the purpose of attracting large audiences.

2. General education—within school and outside of school (including artistic education: theatres, concerts, motion pictures, exhibitions, etc.), endeavoring not only to shed the light of a varied knowledge on the dark villages, but primarily to aid in the creation of self-consciousness and of a clear conception of things—must be closely connected with the Communist propaganda. There are not any forms of science and art which are not connected with the great ideas of Communism and with the various tasks of creating Communist economy.

As far as the schools are concerned, the question of revising them on principles of continuity and labor has been decided. It is necessary to pay special attention to all forms of out-of-school education for adults. The party must by all means assist the

Soviet authorities and the local population in the organization of a large system of community centers (People's Houses), for which purpose the Soviet estates are to be used first of all. The community centers must be peasants' clubs for resting, for sensible amusements, and broad enlightenment, general as well as Communist.

The Communist Party, permitting and encouraging the utilisation of the knowledge of the specialists and other educated persons for conducting courses and for aiding in conducting Communist centers—must take care at the same time that the elements hostile to the Soviet power should not make use of the apparatus of general education and should not introduce in the form of literature, science and art any counter-revolutionary, or anti-social tendencies, and should not thereby paralyze the efforts of Communist propaganda.

3. The peasants feel keenly the need of agricultural education.

The Soviet estates, as well as the farm schools, must become the light-houses of agricultural education. Agricultural institutions, organized and maintained by the People's Commissariat of Education, must be in closest contact with the agricultural institutions of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture.

There must not be any schools, colleges, or any other educational organizations in the villages which do not endeavor (in accordance with the principle of combining studies with productive labor) to function at the same time as an organization of a model husbandry—complete or in part.

Agricultural education must be carried in such a way as to combine this with Communist ideas and it should serve as a pillar to the general effort of the party to reconstruct private establishments into one organized Socialist institution.

## They Got the Chicken Killers!

From *Socialist News*, Cleveland Communist Paper.

**T**HURSDAY morning's papers reported a raid made on the Socialist Labor Lyceum by Chief of Police Smith, Inspector Grauel, Bliss Morton, several captains, some lieutenant detectives, a score of policemen and more than fifty members of the Loyal American League, otherwise known as the imitation Black Hundred, which has as its special object to establish czarism in America.

With such an army and under the leadership of Chief of Police Smith himself, to say nothing of the redoubtable McEwen who shines as the leader of the Black Hundred, the game bagged should have been big indeed.

The newspapers reported that about seventy men had been arrested and of course the suggestion was that they were "bomb throwers", "reds", "Bolsheviki" and Communists. It is true that about that many men were loaded into the police patrols and automobiles which the army brought with them. But, remarkable as it may seem, in place of bagging "bomb throwers", "reds", "Bolsheviki" and Communists, Chief Smith, Inspector Grauel, Bliss Morton, McEwen, the captains, lieutenants, detectives, patrolmen and very Loyal Americans carried with them to the police station nothing more or

less than Chicken Killers! Yes, Chicken Killers.

Lest anyone gain the impression that this is some new and more dangerous variety of that group whose various names have been catalogued above, let us hasten to add that it is a custom among orthodox Jews to have their chickens killed by certain special persons who possess some peculiar virtue for the task. These men are known as "Shoch-tims". They have been receiving for their work of slaughtering fowl the sum of five cents each. This they claimed was too little and so they proceeded to organize a union for the purpose of increasing the price of killing chickens to ten cents. The union was in session at the Socialist Labor Lyceum when the army above enumerated descended upon that establishment. Consequently the bag of "chicken killers."

This raid which besides the "chicken killers" bagged the conservative members of the Jewish "Arbeiter Ring" has given some workingmen unconnected with the radical movement some taste of police methods in Cleveland at the present time. These men got their portion of brutal handling. They have learned that workingmen can be thrown in jail for no other reason than that they are engaged in a peaceable meeting. Let the police and the "Loyal American" keep it up. They are doing well.