

The Communist

All Power to the Workers!

Official Organ of the Communist Party of America

Vol. II, No. 42

MARCH 1, 1920

Price, 5 Cents

To the American Communist Party

[In answer to the greetings of Louis C. Fraina, International Secretary of the Communist Party, to the Communist Party of Holland, we have received the following response from the Dutch party. Our revolutionary comrades in Holland were among the first to join the Communist International and are an active and vital factor in the European movement.]

Dear Comrades:

The Communist Party of Holland sends you its fraternal greetings, in response to the greetings of your party. It is not in a formal spirit, but in the spirit of active revolutionary solidarity that we answer you—and especially at this moment, when all the terrible power and savagery of the American government are being used against the revolutionary movement of the United States, and particularly against the Communist Party.

We are aware of the brutal repressive measures used against you—the brigand raids upon your meeting places, of the arrest of 4000 of your members and of nearly all your officials, of the threatened use of the death penalty against active revolutionists. We are aware of the White Terror of the American bourgeoisie—the most brutal and powerful in the world—although we do not feel its sting as you do. Comrades of the Communist Party, courage and faith! Courage in your magnificent struggle against the reaction—for Soviet Russia and the Communist International! Faith in the coming revolutionary action of the world proletariat! . . .

The repression you are experiencing is an indication of a revolutionary awakening among the American workers. Your great strikes—and the intensive revolutionary agitation of the Communist Party in these strikes—augurs of great changes to come, of a developing sense of mass action among the workers.

Upon you, comrades, history lays a great task. American Capitalism, at this moment, is in possession of world power, and consistently reactionary.

All the facts indicate that the final struggle between proletariat and bourgeoisie will come in the United States—and the issue of this struggle will decide the issue of the world revolution. Your fight against American Imperialism, accordingly—your work of aligning the American proletariat with the world revolutionary movement—if of the first importance. You must weaken the class power of the American bourgeoisie, and finally break it completely. Only when the American proletariat becomes definitely and actively revolutionary will the Communist International conquer, and the world Soviet Republic become a reality.

We feel the utmost confidence in the American proletariat. We feel, comrades, the utmost confidence that the Communist Party realizes the import of its historic task, and will fulfill it—in spite of calumny and repression—in spite of the government and the corrupt Socialist Party.

The fight that your Left Wing fought and won in the American Socialist Party we fought and won ten years ago in our struggle against the reactionary party of Troelstra & Co. The Communist Party of Holland is united—as your is—upon adherence to the Third International, mass action, Soviets and proletarian dictatorship as the means for the revolutionary conquest of power, and no compromise with the bourgeois enemy. United on this basis, the proletariat is unconquerable.

Comrades, battered and bruised, you will still carry on the great struggle. We know it.

Long live the Communist Party of America! Long live the Communist International!

For the Communist Party of Holland,
D. I. WINKOOP President

Amsterdam,

Ruthenberg Again Arrested

EXECUTIVE Secretary Ruthenberg was arrested February 17th at Detroit for the Illinois authorities. He waived contest of extradition and was taken to the Cook County Jail. Bail of \$10,000 was secured February 24th, and now Comrade Ruthenberg is at the call of either New York or Illinois, with a total of \$25,000 bail against him.

On the understanding that Illinois would await the outcome of the New York case against Ruthenberg and Ferguson, there was no idea that such an arrest would be made, since both Ruthenberg and Ferguson have been ready to respond to either of the charges whenever called.

Meanwhile the prosecutors have come to an agreement that the Chicago trial is to be given precedence, so Ferguson too is likely soon to be returned to Chicago, being still in the East.

Gabriel in Prison

WALTER GABRIEL, Secretary of the Communist Party in Newark, New Jersey, was found guilty after a three-day trial on February 11th, and sentenced to serve 2 to 10 years in the penitentiary, with a fine of \$500. There were two charges, one membership in the Communist Party, the other based on Comrade Gabriel's answers to the judge in the police court examination.

The trial was quite spectacular and impressive, Comrade Gabriel making a highly creditable showing on the witness stand, particularly refusing under every pressure to reveal the names of any of his party co-workers in Newark.

Comrade Ferguson was attorney for the defense and won commendation for his exposition of the Communist program and his plea for Gabriel.

The case will be appealed, with every

prospect of a reversal. Bail pending the appeal is set at \$10,000 and some of the liberals in New York are interesting themselves in securing bail and funds for the appeal, realizing the importance of this case as the first criminal conviction in America for mere membership in a political organization.

The appeal also will be argued by Comrade Ferguson, assuring strict adherence to the party principles, as in the trial of this case and as in the argument before the Secretary of Labor on the deportation cases.

SCOTTISH I. L. P. FOR THIRD INTERNATIONAL

At a recent national convention held at Paisley, the I. L. P. (Independent Labor Party) of Scotland voted by a large majority to sever its relations with the Second International and to affiliate with the Third International.

The vote for the step was 158 to 28. The minority delegates were unanimous for severing relations with the Second International, but they wanted to hold up action on affiliating with Moscow until the results were known of the attempt on the part of the German Independent Socialists to summon an international congress of the "left wing" of the Second International, which would discuss forming an entente with Moscow.

When the vote was announced, "there followed a demonstration of enthusiasm such as had never before been equalled in a Scottish I. L. P. conference. Delegates jumped to their feet in one delirious frenzy, surprised and gratified that they were united in their desire to link up with the Moscow International. It was a spontaneous outburst of cheering which astounded the press agents (reporters) who asked what it was all about," according to the Manchester Labor Leader.

Seventh General Soviet Congress

FROM "Folkets Dagblad Politiken," Stockholm, December 13, 1919, are taken some fragmentary items concerning the Seventh Russian Soviet Congress:

Party Representation at Congress

By a decision of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee admission with consultative rights was given to representatives from all parties which have declared themselves in defense of the Soviet Republic.

These parties are: the Russian Communist Party; the Bolshevik Communist Party of Ukraina; the Social Democratic Party of the Mensheviks; the Revolutionary Communist Party; the International Social Democratic Party; the Bund; the Ukrainian "Borobisti" Party; the Right Social Revolutionary Party of Ukraina; deviating factions of the Social Revolutionary Party; the Poale Zion Party; the Society of Maximalist Social Revolutionaries.

The Bolsheviks recognize that these different parties and sections intend to support the Soviet Government, not only against its outside enemies but also in its great task of constructing the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic.

Expulsion of Friedrich Adler

Upon proposal of Trotsky the Congress expelled Friedrich Adler from its honorary membership. The reasons were his relations with the bourgeoisie parties and his defense of coalitions.

Peace Terms of Soviet Russia

The official statement of the Congress on peace terms follows:

"The Entente is considering an armistice with Russia. We will make peace, but upon conditions that the Entente does not interfere in our affairs. We are ready to make concessions but will not sign any

peace that will undermine us. The worker and peasant government is the only power in Russia, and will always remain so."

Progress at Ellis Island

IT is now reported that nearly 400 of those taken to Ellis Island on deportation warrants are out on bail, while 81 are still in confinement.

Hearings have begun but are proceeding very slowly.

Contrary to rumors and gossip, practically none of the prisoners wish to be deported, the exceptions being a very few who are discouraged because they have not been able to secure bail. No matter that some of the deportees, along with hundred of thousand of their countrymen now prefer Europe—particularly Russia—to America, they do not wish to subject themselves to the arbitrary, despotic and often cruel process of deportation.

No exact figures are available, but it appears that most of the deportees are alleged to be members of the Communist Party. In some instances, it is charged, the Department of Justice agents have themselves made out membership cards in order to substantiate their warrants.

RAILROAD STRIKE IN FRANCE

The French railroad strike is spreading rapidly. It has taken on a political character. The capitalists are again relying on a "Socialist" minister to break the strike. Mobilization orders affecting nearly half the railway workers have been issued. The aim is to break the strike by calling the workers to the Colors.

Comrade Minot, one of the leading figures in the strike and one of the best known French Communists, has already been arrested.