

PARTY MATTER

"At Last" The Centrists Unite.

(Continued from page 7.)

CASH STATEMENT FOR MAY, 1920.

CASH RECEIVED: Dues: Distr. II, Let. Fed., Lith., Russ., Ukr., Spec. Org. Stamps: Distr. II, III, IVab, Defense Stamps: Distr. II, III, IVab, Defense Contrib.: Distr. II, IVc, Org. Fund Contrib.: Distr. I, II, III, V, Leaflets: Distr. III, Mchry. Fund Contrib.: Distr. III, Distr. Acct. Entries: I, II, III, IVab, IVC, V, Total Received in May, Balance from April

CASH PAID: Office Exp.: Sundry, Supplies, Postage, Salaries, Organiz. Exp.: Prtg. Statemt., Traveling, Distr. Trav. Exp.: I, II, III, IVab, V, Distr. Salaries: I, II, III, IVab, V, Communist: Edit. Sal., Printing, Delivery, C. E. C. Mtg. Exp., Office Mchry., Scale, Deposit on Comm. Forms, Distr. Acct. Entries: I, II, III, IVab, IVC, V, Total Paid in May, Balance to June

* Inc. some back salaries and sub-distr. salaries.

JEWISH FEDERATION

The Jewish Federation Convention held recently split at the last moment, four delegates going to the "minority" and thirteen delegates remaining with the Communist Party. Raphael and Cornet also went with the "minority" after all their maneuvering to win the convention over to the "minority," and finally for "neutrality," had failed dismally. Raphael has certainly turned out to be a worthy companion to Damon, Isaacs, Langley & Co. since his defection from the ranks of the "majority."

The Jewish Federation elected a C. E. C., and the process of re-organization is taking place rapidly. More than half of the membership is with them and the others are slowly turning back. The Brooklyn, the largest branch in Chicago, a branch in Brooklyn, the largest branch in Chicago, a branch in Philadelphia, are with the "majority" already.

POLISH FEDERATION

The C. E. C. of the Polish Federation has expelled Tyliney, its former Secretary, who went with the "minority," and is in the process of getting back the property of the Federation in his hands. Many of the Polish branches are with the C. E. C. of the Party, and, after their next convention, the whole Federation with very few exceptions will probably be back in the Party.

District No. 1. The leaflets will be printed and distributed. Our comrades suggest that the leaflets should be printed on one side only, so they can be posted on walls, poles, etc. Also text should not be very long.

I hear that "our" joint convention has decided to demand "unity" with the "Big Bluff of Bolshevism" (B. B. B.) gang, as if they had not enough of bluff already. I don't think we should fall for it. Perhaps, they have realized that they themselves haven't enough of "bluff."

Something should be done in the Fraina case. Mr. Nuorteva is getting too bold. I think we should expose that gentleman a little, because he is not much known outside of Massachusetts.

District No. 1 delegates claimed they represented 400 members in the "unity" convention. Our Americanized Lettish branch is still undecided and might go with them. Their members say that the "unity" program and constitution is very very r-r-revolutionary. Our own comrades say—"fix" on hat unity stuff. Our District and Sub-District Committees will decide whether we should keep a paid sub-district organizer or not.

Yours for B. B. B., District Organizer, No. 1.

District No. 2. The four sub-districts in this district are now fairly well-organized. New York City, approximately 900 members, New Jersey, 669 members, Connecticut, 287 members, and Upper New York State, about 200 members. Queens section, after having bolted the "minority" has returned to the C. E. C. Leaflets on Transport Workers, and New Offensive Against Soviet Russia, printed and in the hands of sub-districts. The "minority" in this district are silent on the results of their "unity" convention, evidently they are not bragging about the results, and for good reason too, as a glance at their new organ will show.

Work is proceeding well and things are normal in general.

District No. 3. Last week I was in Wilkes Barre sub-district. Things there are alright and our work is proceeding very well. The Polish Comrades repudiated their former actions, voted that they agree with us on principles and this week they will decide whether they will participate in our convention.

Garish came to his Jewish comrades to make a report of the "unity" convention; he started to read the program and constitution but his members didn't want to listen to a "new program" as they say they wanted only to hear "some changes," as they are not a new party. And the meeting broke up. There is complete disorganization, and they are disgusted with the actions of the "minority." It is too late to get now, but do not worry, they will come to us.

Baltimore Sub-District is O. K. Lithuanians representing 238 members, held a S. D. Convention and unanimously decided to stand with the "majority." Contributed \$50.00 with greetings to the Party.

District No. 4 (Pittsburgh and Cleveland). Erie, small but active membership—Polish, Lith., Jewish, Lettish and Russian branches—committee meets regularly—functions excellently. German branch neutral, contributes to our Party and distributes our literature. Total membership about 50.

Buffalo—Russian, Ukrainian, German, Polish and English branches. Committee meets regularly—finances absorbed by local defense—membership sound and solidly with us. English (38) and German (15) are most active and loyal.

Wheeling, W. Va. district consists of small towns along Ohio River. Membership small and inactive. Pittsburgh—Lithuanian, Ukrainian and Russian branches only—has large and active membership in 30 towns—mostly new and not broken in to party work, but loyal and active—finances good. Will become very powerful district as members are young and enthusiastic.

Akron committee against us through Centrist activities of former local secretary—consists of German, Polish, Lithuanian, So. Slavic, Ukrainian-Russian branch entirely lost—district will have to be re-organized after convention. No finances as Secretary has told members that funds will be stolen.

Cleveland, committee recently organized and meets most regularly, membership large and inactive—finances go entirely through Federations sources. Russian branch (124 members) just pay dues. Lithuanian branch (300) members very inactive. ets best branch and active.

Youngstown, Warren, Toledo, no connections, one Ukrainian, Russian and Lithuanian branches respectively with us and will be represented in dist. con. by delegate. This report supplements last report as to membership, does not supercede.

RESOLUTION OF BRANCH No. 1 (PHILADELPHIA) OF THE LITHUANIAN FEDERATION

We, group of delegates of Branch 1, Lithuanian Communist Federation, at a meeting held May 7, 1920, having considered reports of both sides of the C. E. C. Communist Party, arrived at the following conclusion, and adopted a resolution to that effect:

1. Whereas, splitting the Party, especially at the present moment, while the Party is being torn to pieces by the most violent rage of reaction, and while it is in process of reorganizing itself from the open existence to an underground basis,—is treason to proletarian interests and a violation of the Party discipline;

2. Whereas the "minority," headed by Damon, appeared in the role of the Party disrupters and left the Central Executive Committee;

3. And, whereas, the fundamental reason for the "minority's" withdrawal from the C. E. C. is a disagreement in the matter of principles and tactics, and not technical questions,—

Therefore, Branch No. 1 of the Lithuanian Communist Federation has come to a decision, that:

1. We resolutely protest against the minority withdrawal from the C. E. C. Communist Party, and against splitting the Party;

2. We demand that the "minority" turn the Party funds over to the majority of the C. E. C.;

3. We wholeheartedly support the majority on the question of principles, which is in harmony with the proposition of the Third Communist International and the program of the American Communist Party;

4. Together with the majority we stand for: a) The Soviet System, b) Dictatorship of the Proletariat, and a revolutionary interpretation of Mass Action.

We endorse the position taken by the Exeo. Committee of the Lith. Fed. on this question; i. e. we condemn the minority with Damon as their head, for their treacherous work of splitting the Party.

Group Delegates of Branch No. 1, Lithuanian Commun. Fed., Phila., Pa.

A New Attack Upon The Communist Party.

(Continued from page 2.)

it. By far not all "other members of Fraifa's group" have been arrested, and if this is to be a sufficient basis for charges of connection with the D. of J., then most of our active members are "suspicious" individuals. Perhaps this is the implication that Nuorteva wished to be drawn from his statement.

As to Fraifa's leaving in company with Nosovitzky (No. 6), the arrangements for this were made entirely independently of both, and not at all between themselves, as Nuorteva implies. In regard to No. 7, there has been a "trial" of Dr. Nosovitzky, the stenographic report of which shows that there were other possibilities of that letter coming into the hands of the D. of J.

As to No. 8, the Amsterdam Bureau has published in their Bulletin the whole proceedings of the Conference, and Palmer could get all his information from there without any difficulty.

All the new charges are mere guesses, which would not stand investigation. To come out with them without any authoritative investigation,—to come out with the story of an agent-provocateur that HAS BEEN PROVEN FALSE,—these are acts which must reflect most seriously upon the maker himself, and not cast any shadows either on the persons or the Party attacked.

Yours for Communism, D. Bunte, Act. Sec.—C. P. of A.

before the next convention, organize their own convention and thus rehabilitate themselves as "leaders" (save the mark!). They have done it before and they can do it again.

THE ELECTION FARCE

Now we come to the piece-de-resistance of the "unity convention"—the elections. We shall quote: "Late in the afternoon of the fourth day of the joint sessions (joint sessions? and we thought joint sessions it was a "unity convention"—isn't all the time Y. F. to so cruelly shatter our illusions it mean of Y. F. to so cruelly shatter our illusions—and perhaps the illusions of the U. C. P.? Ed.) it was decided to proceed with elections of party officials. There had been many hours of caucus-ing on each side as to elections. Regardless of the sentiment of the convention expressed by a majority vote against further caucuses (what is a majority vote in a convention to Damon & Co. and the C. L. P. Menshevik leaders! Ed.) neither side was willing to risk a surrender of its group strength. (Strange situations for people who have been shouting "unity" for over a year and are about (?) to accomplish it "at last." Ed.)

Note how even both groups in the "unity convention" distrusted each other after the adoption of an apparently satisfactory program to all concerned. No better proof of the insincerity and hypocrisy that animated the whole convention and its proceedings can be given than the suspicion, distrust, jockeying, bargaining, trading, dickering that went on during the election of officials.

The mask of "unity" was thrown off "at last." Both groups stood, ready to battle for the control of the new organization. "Control" or "split" became the new slogan of both sides. But we are anticipating. Let Y. F. tell you all about it. He was there and witnessed it: "Then came ten nominations for the nine places on the C. E. C. Damon, Scott, Reinhart, Delion, Zemlin (C. L. P.); Meyer, Klein, Flynn Brown, Dawson (C. L. P.). These were the caucus nominations. Obviously the C. L. P. caucus had determined to avail itself of the dissensions in the C. P. ranks and to attempt to elect a majority of the committee. (Won't somebody be shouting "packed" convention soon? Ed.)

"At the night session was announced the result of the balloting: Damon, Scott, Klein, Flynn, 29; Brown, 33; Dawson, 32; Meyer 30; Reinhart, 26; Delion, Zemlin tied at 24. (Damon & Co. evidently got a bad licking and they knew it too. Watch them swing into action when the question of "control" is involved. There he fights like tiger. But on principles, that's another story. Ed.)

"Damon, Scott and Reinhart quickly offered resignations. A bitter discussion was precipitated. Both sides had played for "control" and the result had been a boomerang; for how it was urged, could the C. P. delegates report back to their members that they had been outwitted in strategy in a way to give the minority control of the united party? Even though the fault was that of the C. P. delegates themselves, how could that remedy the outside situation? (Here Y. F. unwittingly gives a sidelight on the situation which would make pleasant reading about a Democratic or Republican Convention but coming from a so-called Communist Convention represents the very lowest order of political consciousness. Do you see what worried the "minority" C. P. delegates—not the formulation of a Communist Program and Constitution—the laying of the basis for their activities for the coming year—or even the superficial achievement of "unity" which they did manage to accomplish for the time—but what their members will think if the C. L. P. gets control of the party! Ed.)

After some bitter retorts from the C. L. P. a recess was held for half an hour.

"Then began the tug of war which went into the middle of the night, only to be resumed the next morning—the two groups, apparently completely welded, now standing sharply apart as C. P. and C. L. P. The convention vanished; in its place were two caucuses, with committees for interchange of offers and counter-proposals.

"The strained item in the C. P. camp had been an attack upon Caxton, based on the "majority" C. P. criticism. (So, our work was bearing fruit "at last." Ed.). In the C. P. caucus, after long discussion, he had been nominated for the C. E. C., 18 to 9. (Was Reinhart, who used to denounce Y. F. when he appeared at meetings one of the 9?) Later Caxton withdrew his name. Now it was insisted that his name be re-introduced, making Zemlin first alternate. The C. L. P. offered to substitute Caxton for Brown as International Secretary. (The International Secretaryship, the highest office in the party is something to be traded and bargained for not on the basis of the man most fit for it but on a purely bourgeois basis of political trading. Ed.)

"The last morning found the situation deadlocked. To open the convention again meant to give the C. P. the advantage of the renewed caucus pressure in favor of solidarity for C. P. control, all questions of personality aside. The issue of control having been precipitated by the turn of the election, the C. P. delegates were in no mood to give up their demand for a majority of the C. E. C.

"The C. P. delegates made only demand, to reopen the convention, it was for the other side to make the next move...

"...How is one to visualize one group of delegates in heated argument, while the other group is engaged in the singing of revolutionary songs, mostly Russian,—how is one to imagine all this without something in the way of special dimensions? The singing group marches halfway toward the arguing group—a challenge to unity, the song of the International—and reluctantly back to its own meeting place.

"There is a committee conference. Before the report comes back the lines are formed for a new march, this time to go all the way. Agreement is reported: a C. E. C. of ten members, the five C. L. P. to stand elected, five C. P. members now to be chosen. The march proceeds; it is the only report to the anxious C. L. P. delegates;—the two groups merge into one another, all singing the International. There is the grasping of hands, the embrace of comradeship; nothing is said—there is too much feeling for speech... Unity is achieved..."

"At last" as Damon would say the torture and suspense is over "unity is achieved"—The Centrists have united into the United Centrist Party of America!

Need anything more be added to the foregoing? Surely, every reader has formed a vivid picture in his mind of the "unity convention" which gave birth to U. C. P. Born in compromise and betrayal, fathered by Centrists of the type of Damon, Y. F. & Co. and mothered by the C. L. P.—with one who claims to be a representative from the III International in the role of godfather (the latter is himself responsible for a great deal of the disorganization that has been going on recently in the Communist Party, through his unwarranted meddling). This new United Centrist Party is doomed to an ignoble career in the Communist movement in this country.