

The Communist

Official Organ of the
COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA

Issued Every month by the
CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vol. III No. 1.

April, 1921

The Socialist Party and Eugene V. Debs

The Socialist Party of America, torn from its moorings in the Second International, where it properly belongs today, is a derelict adrift in the stormy seas of the proletarian revolution. Rudderless and captained by philistines and sychophants—Hillquit, Lee, Berger, and Co.—it is a menace to the working class movement in America. The old craft is splitting on the rocks of the Communist International. Every so often we read of new elements splitting away.

Just now there comes to hand a copy of a new publication, "The Workers' Council", bearing the signature of Benjamin Glassberg and Walter M. Cook, former State Secretary of the N. Y. Socialist Party. This paper calls itself, "An organ FOR the Third International" and calls upon "the class-conscious elements of the workers to rally to its support". We cannot yet tell just whom this paper represents or what they intend to do, but it seems that it is engaged in the attempt to salvage the old hulk of the American Socialist Party, and save some of the wreckage FOR the Third International. They evidently intend to operate outside of the S. P.

Another group is working within the Socialist Party and calls itself a "Committee ON the Third International" and states "that the actual processes of disintegration that our party is going through can only be arrested by the party's adopting as guidance for its action the principles enunciated by the Third International". This "committee" is headed by J. Louis Engdahl and Steven Bircher and expects to bring the leaking, filthy old S. P. safe into the harbor of the Communist International, thinking that the C. I. which would not accept Serrati in company with Turatti, Modigliani, et al., will take a Hillquit or a Berger into its ranks.

Anyone may be FOR or impose himself ON the Third International. The Communist International has hundreds of thousands of sympathizers in America.

The ONLY way to get IN the Communist International is to join the Communist Party of America, which is the American section of the C. I. The Socialist Party cannot be saved—it must be exposed and destroyed as an insidious and dangerous enemy of the working class, the last resort and hope of the capitalist state, the blood brothers of the Eberts, Vanderveldes, Dans, Martovs, MacDonalds, Renaudels, Troelstras, Turattis, the world over.

The Socialist Party has one asset and only one. That is Eugene Debs. The cynical and hypocritical leaders of the S. P. have exploited this sincere and mistaken old man to the limit. Eugene Victor Debs once belonged to the revolutionary working class of the world, but now his soft and yielding nature has been molded to suit the sordid purposes of the S. P. leaders. Just before Debs went to jail he wrote in "The Class Struggle":

"The reign of capitalism and militarism has made of all the people inflammable material. They are ripe and ready for the change, the great change, which means the rise and triumph of the workers, the end of exploitation, of war and plunder, and the emancipation of the race. Let it come! Let us all help its coming and pave the way for it by organizing industrially and politically to conquer capitalism and usher in the day of the people. In Russia and in Germany our valiant comrades are leading the proletarian revolution, which knows no race, no color, no sex, no boundary lines. They are setting the heroic example for world-wide emulation.

Let us, like them, scorn and repudiate the cowardly compromisers within our own ranks, challenge and defy the robber-class power, and fight it out on that line to victory or death!

A Protest Protested.

The following letter from an irate comrade of District IV was received by the Party Editor for publication in *THE COMMUNIST*. This comrade has been reading the official organ of the U. C. P. and instead of calling our attention to misstatement of fact appearing in the U. C. P. Communist, hastens to blame us and wants the statement corrected to "rehabilitate the truth".

When we received this protest we looked up our files and found no reference to the Greek movement in No. 12 of *THE COMMUNIST*. We did, however, find in No. 12 of the U. C. P. Communist this statement under the heading "The Communist World";

From the crown of my head to the soles of my feet I am a Bolshevik, and proud of it. The day of the people has arrived!"

There spoke the real Debs—the Debs of revolution. His revolutionary fire has burned itself out, and he now associates with those whose role will be that of the hangmen of the proletarian revolution in America. Debs has elected to go with the yellow betrayers of revolutionary socialism; whereas his place was in the Communist International fighting side by side with the red soldiers of the revolution. The hand which Lenin extended to Debs has not to our knowledge been withdrawn but Debs has refused to clasp it.

Poor old Debs! It is upon his revolutionary past that the degenerate Socialist Party leans. But the Social revolution is ruthless and sweeps aside the rubbish of the past, crushing parties and men in its onward and irresistible march toward the final goal. Younger and more vigorous revolutionists will pick up the crimson banner where Debs has let it fall, and bearing it onward past every obstacle, will plant it upon the topmost pinnacle of the bastille of capitalism. The social revolution is invincible. The Communist Party is its highest expression. He who is not with us has fallen out of the line of march.

The vanguard of the proletariat—The Communist Party of America—is marching on gaining strength and power with each passing day, while Debs, straining his weak eyes in the direction of the red vanguard of the revolution sinks deeper and deeper in the swamp of social-democratic reform. His once heroic figure will grow smaller and smaller as the proletariat reaches ever higher heights. Debs has gained his liberty and lost his revolutionary soul.

"A Communist newspaper has been issued in Athens under the name of 'Kinonia' (Society). Communists ran in the election which took place on November 6."

We are publishing our Greek comrade's letter not only to relieve his justly outraged feelings, but also for the valuable information which it contains and to protest, on our part, against being blamed for the mistakes of the U. C. P.

(MOORE—PARTY ED.)

To the Editor of "The Communist".
Dear Comrade: As a member of the C. P. I beg to protest in the strongest