

## PARTY PROGRESS

### The 3rd Period Hits St. Louis

A clearcut illustration of "Third period" adventurism and the consequent isolation, is afforded in St. Louis. The May Day Conference called by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the Mooney-Billings Freedom Conference called by the Molders' Union were exceptional opportunities for mass activity and for the local Party to become a factor in the St. Louis labor movement. Did the Party get out Lenin's slogan of the united front and work in these conferences, pushing them so St. Louis would have a huge May Day Mass Meeting, and so that the workers and their organizations and unions would become aroused about the frame-up system and Mooney and Billings? No. Well, what did the Party do? Nothing. That is, nothing with reference to the Mooney-Billings Freedom Conference; the May Day Conference they broke up.

Let us take these up singly and see what we get out of this adventure. The May Day Conference called by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers was an opportunity for St. Louis to hold a huge May Day Mass-Meeting on the basis of a united front with other labor organizations. The delegates to the Conference had no disagreement about the program or policy for the proposed May Day meeting (briefly, Fight against imperialist war! Defend Workers' Soviet Russia! Fight against low wages, long hours, rationalization, etc.) yet the Party leadership, who controlled the majority of delegates, broke up the conference! They were against a united front on any basis; their advice was each labor organization shall hold their own May Day meeting! The result was no joint May Day Mass-Meeting; three small, isolated meetings being held instead, with only the Communist League of America (Opposition) holding a meeting which could at all be called successful. A chance to politically wake-up St. Louis with a huge joint mass-meeting and the Party's slogan is "Break up the Conference!"

The other illustration of a bankrupt leadership is afforded in the Mooney-Billings Freedom Conference called by Local 59, of the International Molder's Union. Some twenty local unions and several labor organizations have participated in the work but at none of the conferences has the Party done anything. Why, the Party has not even been represented! Neither has the I.L.D., the W.I.R., the Y.C.L., or any of the Party controlled organizations, Ladies Auxiliary, etc. Why was this?

Here was an opportunity for the Party to be freed from their Labor Lyceum isolation; to push if not lead a union fight against the frame-up system, yet the Party's policy is "we don't want to have anything to do with them, they're labor fakers". To hell with the united front, to hell with the fight against the frame-up system, to hell with a demonstration and mass-meeting for Mooney and Billings, "we won't have anything to do with the A.F.L., they're labor fakers!"

The result is the Mooney-Billings public protest meeting and the automobile parade on July 27th, 13th anniversary of Mooney and Billings' imprisonment is being held without the local Party and their controlled organizations taking any part in the demonstration. A new force is in the field: the Communist League of America (Opposition) and they are the pushing and leading force. Accordingly we find the "Boycotting" Party becoming more and more isolated and foreign to the St. Louis labor movement; each adventure isolates it more—while the Communist Opposition finds its influence growing, its ranks larger, because it is a part of the labor movement, and its political line is for the workingclass.

And so the local Party remains, as it has been for some time, isolated. A clique of Labor Lyceum debaters. With the Jimmy Higginess one by one becoming demoralized and disgusted, some with the isolation from the labor movement, others with the overnight expulsions of yesterday's "Leading and outstanding, best comrades". Most of the local members are Party patriots with little or no understanding of the Comintern policies and of Bukharin, Stalin and Trotsky; suddenly confronted by a C.E.C. member with: "unanimously and unreservedly endorse" this latest action or you are fighting against the Comintern, and are a socialist, menshevik, degenerate, counter-revolutionist, and they unanimously endorse anything and everything, not in the least enlightened but hoping that the C.E.C. member is right—that now everything is all right.

But it is hopeless to hope for heaven—for a mass Communist movement when the leadership continues their adventurist policies of isolating and splitting the Party. The rank and file should fight for an internal bolshevik discussion of the three political lines before the Party; the opportunist (Bukharin) the adventurist (Stalin) and the Leninist (Trotsky). An open discussion on the fictitious issue of "Trotskyism" will give a complete understanding of the present situation in the Comintern. To this end all rank and file members will come; there is no other remedy or solution. Mass Communist Parties do not grow on trees or out of unanimous endorsements; they are based on understanding, and on correct workingclass policy.

MARTIN C. PAYER.

## TWO LETTERS FROM AFAR

### A LETTER FROM ALFRED ROSMER

Prinkipo, Turkey, July 9, 1929.

Dear Comrade Cannon:

We have decided to publish an International Review, called "Opposition" as soon as possible. We hope to be ready by next September. This review is to be published in two languages: French and German. An English edition is, of course, very desirable, but we believe it not possible for the present... In the meantime, we shall send you, of course, all articles of an international interest for insertion in The Militant...

We hope that the French Opposition will take during the months to come a new development. We are preparing a weekly which, according to our intention, must unite the present small groups—or most of the comrades who are in them—and above all many Communists who are no more members of the Party but are quite demoralized by Stalin's zigzags and partially inactive, our task will be hard but we take it with great confidence.

The arrival every fortnight of The Militant is always a great joy to me. I read it at once from beginning to end: it is good stuff and I admire your fighting spirit in the struggle against the Stalinist clique.

With my best wishes for the young Communist League,

Fraternally yours,

A. ROSMER.

P. S.—You know perhaps that Foster is an old acquaintance of mine. I wonder how he can stay in Stalin's galley. I used to hear him speak rather harshly of "bolshevisation."

### FROM THE CHINESE OPPOSITION

Shanghai, China, July 8, 1929.

Dear Comrade:

Your periodical received with many thanks. In the fighting against the opportunistic leadership of the Party, we are reinforced by international theoretical support. As the Stalinist regime has reigned over all the world, we are sure that the fight against opportunism will be our united task.

We, under the Stalinist suppression, are hardly able to receive any information about the truth of Russia. Yet we have passed already one year since our organization has been founded. Victory is already on our side, in that the mass of the party has followed us on all the fronts that we face.

Our Party leadership is the true and honest disciple of opportunism. They follow what Stalin does against us. But we will never be discouraged, although we are under extreme suppression of our party leaders. They forbid us to criticize the opportunistic policy

## COMMUNIST LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

The Communist League of America and its branches are undertaking numerous activities. Some of the work is cited below:

**NEW YORK CITY:** The New York branch of the Communist League is conducting very successful street meetings every Saturday night. Militants and the pamphlet, the Criticism of the Draft Program of the Comintern by L. D. Trotsky, have been sold in large numbers at each meeting. Among the speakers have been comrades Max Shachtman, Martin Abern, Maurice Spector, S. M. Rose and many other members of the branch.

The branch is also conducting a membership drive and eight new applicants were accepted at the last two branch meetings which are held weekly. Sale of the Militant is stressed and upwards of one thousand copies of the August 15th issue are expected to be sold. The newsstands selling the Militant are regularly increasing.

A study class is also being formed for the fall and winter months.

A program of trade union and labor organization activities is being mapped out by the local Executive Committee. The branch is made up largely of members active in the labor unions.

**CHICAGO, ILL.** The Chicago branch is one of the best branches in support of the Militant and is now conducting a campaign to raise its quota for the projected WEEKLY MILITANT. Some of the oldest and liveliest wires in the revolutionary movement are in the Chicago branch. The Chicago comrades have been particularly awake to the task of getting subscribers to the Militant and the Chicago list grows rapidly.

**MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.** This branch of the Communist League is the unquestioned backbone of the revolutionary labor and Communist movement in Minneapolis. Its members are experienced workers in the labor unions and other labor organizations. Some of its activities are reported on in other columns of The Militant, notably its work in aiding to organize the unorganized clothing workers under the leadership of Oliver Carlson, an alternate member of the National Committee of the Communist League. Such live elements as Vincent R. Dunne, Carl Skoglund, O. R. Votaw, C. R. Hedlund, L. Roseland, Oscar Sover, Carl Cowl, and many others give the Communist League a prestige throughout the ranks of the workers.

The Minneapolis League is pushing the drive for the defense of the Gastonia frame-up victims, and is endeavoring to organize the movement on the widest possible united front basis.

The Minneapolis branch is strongly behind the drive of the National Committee for a Weekly Militant, as

taken in Russia as well as on an international scale. Under this condition we could not help but publish our paper and distribute to all the members of the Party. We feel that we have not yet got the sympathy of the masses outside of the Party. We hope that hereafter our attention will be given to this kind of work, as you did. We try to publish our periodical named THE PROLETARIAN. It shall appear before you very soon.

The Chinese revolution has lost all that we have been fighting for. Opportunistic leadership betrayed our hoped-for victory. We are now facing various kinds of oppression. We are in need of economic resources.

We hope that you will send us books and papers relative to recent conditions of the International Opposition. Organizationally, we have Action Committees in the nuclei in every part of China.

We hope you will inform us as to the condition actually in Soviet Russia and the Third International.

In your paper we hope you can put more material on the position in China.

With Communist Greetings,

ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE  
CHINESE OPPOSITION.

By P.

### The Sacco-Vanzetti Meetings

Outstanding in the second anniversary of the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti was the failure of the revolutionary elements to mobilize the workers for an international memorial demonstration, and to utilize the movement generated thereby for an intensified struggle against the persecution and imprisonment of working class fighters. The Comintern did not even make an effort to organize demonstrations internationally. In Europe, there were no demonstrations, at least none was reported either in the bourgeois or the Communist press. In the United States, there was no national movement organized, despite the pressing need and the excellent opportunity to knit the lessons of the Sacco-Vanzetti case with the struggle for the Gastonia defendants. The New York "demonstration" in Union Square was a pitiful fiasco—only some 3000 attended the meeting organized by the Party. In most of the other centers there was not even an endeavor to demonstrate on the anniversary. It was simply passed over.

This is a warning signal for the Party of the passivity that has crept into the ranks. The huge movement for Sacco and Vanzetti must and can be revived for Gastonia and for the workers who are already imprisoned, some of them for years. The present Party policy, however, is powerless to accomplish this urgent task.

well as in maintaining the paper from issue to issue. The branch undertook a house to house canvass for the Militant with considerable success, and the idea is recommended to other branches. The Minneapolis group rivals Chicago as subscription getters for the Militant. The comrades report also that the St. Paul branch is getting under way.

**ST. LOUIS, MO.** Since the formation of the St. Louis branch of the Communist League, St. Louis has been seen more Communist activity than it has for a long time. The branch is especially active in the Mooney-Billings campaign and is working to broaden this and similar movements to draw in every possible labor organization into the campaign.

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA.** Comrade Sarah Linn in this bailiwick of the Southern steel and cotton lords distributes The Militant and does all possible to further our revolutionary work.

**RICHMOND, CALIF.** A branch of the Communist League is being formed here.

**BOSTON, MASS.** An enthusiastic meeting of the Boston branch greeted the distribution by comrade L. Schlosberg of membership cards and dues stamps of the Communist League. Subscriptions for the Militant are coming in steadily from the Massachusetts territory. Our comrades in Boston have been very active in the shoe workers' strike. The Militant has a very good sale throughout Boston, Roxbury and nearby points.

**KANSAS CITY, MO.** "Shorty" Buehler, secretary of the Kansas City branch, reports that the Communist League there recently held a successful picnic for the benefit of the Militant, and that the comrades are now concentrating on new members. The Militant has sold well indeed, and a deep ferment has been aroused among the Communists and sympathizers in Kansas City, and all to the good of the Opposition led by comrade Trotsky.

**WILLISTON, N. D.** Comrade A. C. Miller, the first Communist legislator in the United States, reports that a strong branch of the Communist League is being formed of workers and poor farmers in and around Williston who are disgusted with the opportunistic policy of the Stalin clique and its local agent, Knunson.

Space prevents further reports of branch activities in the United States and Canada, but a regular feature will be made of organization activities from now on. Comrades are requested to send in brief reports regularly for publication.

The National Committee of the League is conducting a drive for the Weekly Militant. See other columns.