

The MILITANT

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Communist League of America
(Opposition)

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The Drive for the WEEKLY

The announcement in the last issue of the final decision to launch the WEEKLY MILITANT on November 7th, 1929, the twelfth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, has aroused great enthusiasm in the ranks of the Opposition. Comrades throughout the country are awaiting the first issue of the WEEKLY and concentrating all efforts on insuring its continued publication. The New York branch of the Communist League is now at work to raise its share of the fund. Two of our most reliable branches, Chicago and Minneapolis, write to inform us that they will subscribe their part of the money required for the WEEKLY Points as far apart as Kansas City, Toronto, and Philadelphia are energetically engaged in the campaign. Many of the other branches are also taking up the question of the drive with enthusiasm.

Every day brings a new event that demonstrates the imperative need of a militant organ of the class struggle that is able to bring clarity of purpose and action into the labor and revolutionary movement. The bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor proceeds from one betrayal to another. It has just finished delivering the fighting carmen New Orleans bound hand and foot to the traction interests. It is trying to organize its trade unions against the Gastonia victims of the Southern reaction, instead of for them. The organized forces in the A. F. of L. that can challenge Messrs. Green and Woll are being weakened and demoralized by the senseless policy of the Communist Party. The MILITANT, from the very beginning, has fought against this line of leaving the reactionaries an open field in the A. F. of L. instead of fighting them inch by inch for the leadership of the organized workers. As a WEEKLY it will be able to increase this work manifold.

The other side of the picture—the situation in the Communist movement—shows the need of the WEEKLY even more keenly. The movement is in a severe crisis. The tremendous work of gathering the forces of American Communism in the past decade is being broken down by the irresponsible direction and policies of the Communist Party leadership. Expulsions, deep-going splits, confusion and corruption are the order of the day in the Party. The weakening of the Communist movement is a profound blow at the labor movement as a whole, since the Communists are its most active, its clearest and most militant section. The fight to revive the Communist movement on the foundations of Marx and Lenin which enabled it to grow so powerfully at one time is a fight in the interests of all the workers. The MILITANT, which has conducted this stubborn fight since its inception, will be enabled to multiply its efforts as a WEEKLY.

The MILITANT is the organ of the class conscious workers. It is they who must put their shoulders to the wheel and make it certain that the WEEKLY MILITANT is insured for the first period. We are confident that they will respond. *...If an average of Two HUNDRED comrades and friends will pledge an average of ONE DOLLAR A WEEK for the next period the WEEKLY MILITANT is guaranteed to appear regularly as the voice of the revolutionary workers in every struggle.* The small sacrifice involved in this is as nothing compared to the tremendous sacrifices being made today by our Russian comrades—disemployment, imprisonment, exile and banishment—for the cause of the proletariat. Those who can make a bigger pledge than ONE DOLLAR A WEEK should do so and make up for the workers who cannot be reached by us. Those who can make an outright donation should send it in immediately.

The MILITANT needs the support of every militant fighter. Our small and growing regiment of Bolshevism needs your help to increase its ammunition of struggle, to insure the WEEKLY MILITANT.

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE WEEKLY!
FILL OUT THIS BLANK

THE MILITANT
Box 120, Madison Square Station,
New York, N. Y.

Enclosed herewith a contribution for \$.....
for the WEEKLY MILITANT.

I pledge myself to make a regular contribution of \$..... every week towards the SUSTAINING FUND FOR THE WEEKLY MILITANT.

Name

Address

City State

Lynch Law in Gastonia

The savage mercenaries of North Carolina's mill barons have claimed their first blood sacrifice. With tremendous odds on their side, the lust-maddened "chivalrous gentlemen" of the South attacked a truckload of textile workers and murdered a defenseless mother of five children, Ella May Wiggins. Previous to this bestial assault, three organizers of the National Textile Workers Union, Ben Wells, C. M. Lell and C. D. Saylor were dragged out of their lodgings by a lynching mob, driven to a lonely spot, and brutally beaten. Wells was so horribly attacked that his body was one mass of lacerations and bruises. On another occasion, a number of organizers, including their courageous leader, Hugo Oehler, were attacked by a wolfish mob. They succeeded in escaping miraculously with only a few blows struck. Right after the murder of Ella Wiggins, organizer Cleo Tessner was kidnapped at gunpoint, by the same gang; blackjacked, beaten with clubs and almost strung from a tree.

The Black Hundreds of North Carolina continue their horrors with impunity. Homes are raided and meeting places are dynamited. A reign of terror has been instituted. The very lives of every organizer and active union worker hang by a hair. It is courting death for any of them to walk the streets alone or unarmed, or to sleep in the same house for more than one night. The police and the other legal authorities, who are more often than not in direct cahoots with the bloodthirsty hoodlums, do nothing to prevent these outrages for the simple reason that they exist solely for the purpose of protecting the gorged profits of the mill lords from the demands of the workers for improved conditions.

The reactionary camorra of mill owners, gunmen, police courts, and the state power, are frenziedly set upon running the National Textile Workers Union out of North Carolina. They are in a cold sweat of fear at the prospect of an organized militant textile workers' union that will defeat the slaves from the arrogant encroachments of the bosses.

Their other purpose is to poison the atmosphere against the Gastonia strikers who are on trial for their lives. The mistrial declared in the Charlotte court

gives the prosecution, faithful servant of the mills, additional time to tighten its frame-up net, to terrorize the union fighters and prevent them from mobilizing the support of the workers everywhere. They know that it is only by this support that the Gastonia defendants have a chance for freedom. They know that if the defense is able to arouse a mass movement of the American workers, it will be powerful enough to break through the legal murder conspiracy against Fred Beal and his fellow-fighters on trial.

That is why the fighters in North Carolina must break down the reign of terror of the progromists. This will be accomplished, great though the odds may be, if the workers throughout the Carolina battlefields are set into motion. Not all the gunmen of the Lora mills will be able to withstand the resistance of a mass movement.

That is why every textile militant will have to defend himself and his union at all costs. Every worker has the right and duty to defend himself against the murderous attacks of the gunmen. Every drop of blood that is shed in the Carolina struggle will fall upon the head of the capitalist class, from the mill owners and the governor, down to the prosecutor and the police.

That is why every worker throughout the country must help forge a solid ring of defense around the victims of the Gastonia frame-up. The second trial is coming up again, and only the workers' united efforts can set them free. Capitalist courts are where labor fighters are legally killed and imprisoned. The labor movement is where they are freed. All who stand in the way of uniting every worker, every workers' organization, irrespective of political and economic opinions, into one mighty front for the defense, will be brushed aside. Away with sectarian frivolity! Fighters for our class are in danger of their lives. Workers, express your solidarity!

Have your organizations join in the protest movement. Send funds to the Defense to help them fight for Gastonia. Demand a united struggle. Labor united in one movement is all-powerful, and strong enough to break down even prison bars and to destroy the lynchers of the working class.

Chiang Kai-Shek's War Drive

Efforts of the Russian White Guards, working under the direction of the Chinese reactionaries, to provoke the Soviet Union into a war over the Chinese Eastern Railway, continue to be exerted along the Manchurian border. Every day brings additional information of raids conducted by White Guard and Chinese cavalry or other military detachments against Russian villages, which the Nanking and Mukden authorities either deny took place or blandly refuse to take responsibility for. Not satisfied with these crimes, the hangmen of the Chinese people continue with their vicious attacks upon Soviet citizens in China. Not only have dozens of these been imprisoned and held incommunicado under the most atrocious conditions, but many of them have been massacred on the streets.

The Chinese reactionaries hope that by these acts the Russians can be sufficiently infuriated to take such measures as would lead to war. In that case Chiang Kai-Shek would appeal to the League of Nations and the other signatories to the hypocritical Kellogg Pact (which the Soviet Union made the mistake of signing) to lend their imperialist armies to "repel the Soviet militarists" with the aim of military invasion of the Workers' Republic. The Chinese dictator wants to frustrate the endeavors of the Russian workers and peasants to arrive at a pacific settlement of the dispute. In order to maintain a deceptive basis for his delay in acting on the Soviet proposals, Chiang has permitted and inspired the provocative raids of the White Guards and the Chinese squadrons, knowing that the Red Army will defend itself and punish the invaders. In some instances the Red Army has already pursued the White Guards so effectively that many of them will never again engage in counter-revolutionary work.

The imperialists, because of a complex of reasons, would like to avoid a war in Manchuria at the present time. But they hope that the situation will develop to the point where the concrete proposal can be made for the "internationalization" of the disputed railway, i.e., for establishing a mobile imperialist fort against the Soviet Union. This is particularly the aim of Hoover and Stimson.

Confronted with these dangers, it is now more than ever necessary that a correct class policy be pursued in the Soviet Union, since only a mobilization of the workers and poor peasants will enable Russia to meet and conquer these perils to its existence. The Kulaks (rich peasants) are resuming their bitter resistance to

the proletarian dictatorship, as is reported to the Party Congress now in session, and are refusing to turn over their grain crops, committing arson and murder, in the hopes that the outbreak of war will change the relation of forces to their advantage. The Russian workers will be mobilized if their economic and political position is improved at the expense of the Kulaks, Nepmen and the Bureaucracy. But Stalin, with his policy of industrialization at the expense of the workers, cannot achieve this aim. The defense of the Soviet Union—the highest duty of every worker—demands the replacement of the Stalinist bureaucracy by the Bolshevik leadership it expelled from the Party and sent into exile.

MASS MEETING The Crisis in the American Communist Movement

Expulsions and splits are taking place with greater frequency in the Communist Party of the United States. The membership and influence of the Party are on the decline. The Lovestone group, in power in the Party for four years, has now been expelled. Less than a year ago it expelled the supporters of the Russian Opposition, (Trotsky) who have now formed the Communist League of America (Opposition). The Communist movement in America is in a deep-going crisis. How has all this happened? What is the future of the Communist movement in the United States? What effect has this crisis on the American labor movement? Come and hear this explained at the mass meeting arranged at the

LABOR TEMPLE, 242 E. 14th St., (near 2nd Ave.)
on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 1929,
7:30 p. m. sharp.

SPEAKERS:

JAMES P. CANNON MARTIN ABERN
MAX SHACHTMAN

Admission: 25 cents

Bring your friends.

AUSPICES: New York Branch, Communist League of America (Opposition).