

LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

THE BELLEVILLE CONFERENCE

St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Comrades:

The recent Belleville convention of the National Miners Union for the state of Illinois has created a very sharp and serious situation.

The Daily Worker for October 28 claims that there were 110 delegates at this convention. First they had a general gabfest and bombastic predictions as to what was done in the textile fields and the clothing industry throughout the South and Eastern states, and also of the greatest forward step, etc., that the working class of America (led by the great Stalinists) had taken in launching the T. U. U. L. in Cleveland. Practically all the long speeches had the tone and make-up of Party phrases used in all of the Communist conventions that the red, red revolution was right around the corner. The rank and file on the second day of the convention was so sick of hearing these speeches that they demanded that they be stopped and that some practical plans for organizing the miners be discussed, that a report on the strength of the miners of Illinois and throughout the country be made, and also to discuss plans for calling a strike etc.

All the window dressing of a Communist convention was present on the stage with a constant stream of runners delivering caucus mandates to members on the stage and on the floor. The trouble began when the Party gave the floor to John Watt, president of the N. M. U. Watt started to ask why he never had the floor sooner.

He called for a showdown and wanted them to present charges against him if anything was wrong. Then the fireworks began over again. More wonderful speeches followed: Right Wing, Left Wing, Centrist groups, Trotskyism, Lovestoneism, socialist fakers, Haggood, Howat, MacDonald, Fishwick, Lewis, Green, Woll, the coming world war, the Russian Revolution, and the general parade of the balance. What this meant to the 40 or 50 non-Party rank and file delegates was summed up by them in a motion to close debate and cut out this damned foolishness and get to work building the N. M. U. The big-hearted and fair-minded chairman, Voyzey, after granting the floor to at least 20 Party members, also joined in the demand to close debate. John Watt was given exactly 7 minutes to answer all the other speakers and that was not all the chairman did: he ruled that it was only fair that Pat Toohy should close debate after Watt's speech with also 7 minutes.

Watt took the floor and bitterly attacked the national committee for their wrong policy. Then up spoke the well-known Lovestoneite, Toohy, who toured through the tame regions of Illinois, but was kept out of the West Frankfort sub-district where he would have been exposed to the terrorism of the reactionary forces and meet the same fate as Corbushly and Allard, who were beaten up and shot at. He took the floor and tried to show up Watt and ended with reading a letter sent by Watt. Before he could finish, Freeman

Thompson made a point of order by stating that if this was read other things would be brought in and urged that it should not be read. It so happens that Thompson is lined up with the present stannite machine and here was too good a chance for Toohy to pass up. Toohy knew that Thompson and Watt were in Ohio together when this scab company union of coal miners was supposed to be organized and that the dues collected by the company would be turned over to the N. M. U. It was not until this letter was to be presented for the purpose of showing up what kind of a leader Watt was, that Thompson stepped in and wanted it kept quiet. Why? Because Thompson is the man responsible for the conditions laid down in collecting dues from this scab union. He reported this to Watt and Watt referred it to the national committee for advice. So Pat Toohy read this letter to the convention.

Watt was never given a chance to answer. After Toohy spoke a motion was put through to refer this case to the national committee of the N. M. U. for a hearing. The vote on this motion was 63 for and 47 against. It carried. Then a large number of these delegates rose and walked out of the hall. Watt was accused by Foster that he lead the walkout from the hall, but that was either a mistake or a deliberate lie on Foster's part, for I personally sat 15 feet away from Watt when Foster spoke and Watt was not 12 feet from Foster all the time he spoke.

After Foster's speech we realized that a mistake had been made by the Party in handing these non-Party delegates and that the situation had developed to the point of a split. Watt, Angelo, Goldberg, Payer, Morgan and myself got together immediately and started to round up these delegates and took as many as we could to a room where we invited Foster to talk to the delegates. The delegates refused to go back to the convention hall. Then it was up to us to use our influence to get them to overlook these mistakes and have them remain and work in the N. M. U. and carry on the work of organizing the miners into the union and prepare their forces for the impending strike.

After hours of discussion this was finally agreed to by all the delegates present. Another thing: Watt, Angelo and Morgan played a big part in winning these workers over to our viewpoint and if Watt or the others are accused of leading a split, that is a damned lie for they and our group did more than Foster could do. We succeeded in reaching 30 delegates of the 40 or so that walked out of the convention and in preventing a split in the union.

The Communist League of America (Opposition) fully understood the role played by the Party and was thereby in a position to take over the situation, try to correct these mistakes and lead the miners forward to the next steps in the struggle. Preparations are being made to hold sub-district conferences as a means of organizing the rank and file miners into the National Miners Union and for the liquidation of the United Mine Workers of America throughout the state of Illinois. We will continue to carry on our work in the unions and fight the policy of the Communist Party whenever their policies are wrong. This fight developed as a result of the belief that no non-Party worker can be an official of the N. M. U. and if there is, he must be removed at all costs even if it leads to a split in those working class organizations.

ELMER McMILLAN

PARTY PROGRESS IN BOSTON

Boston, Mass.

Dear Comrades:

You may be interested to know about the progress of the Communist Party in District One. I can give you a little information about the chaos in our district. As you know, the most active comrades in the District Committee here for the last few years have been Zeims, Louis Marks, and Bail, with Bail as District Organizer. Now Louis Marks and Bail are expelled from the Party and Zeims is removed from the District Committee. It may be said: 'There is a Party... without a District Committee.'

Last night, November 9 there were seven comrades on trial for not being loyal to the Party—Duboff, Mary Schainis, and others. The result will be known in a few days. The Jewish District Committee has been dismissed because there is no one in the district to be the organizer for the Jewish section, for the Jewish organizer, I. Kutsker, has been removed from office for not being loyal to the Party and a committee of three has been "elected" out of incompetents to be the rulers of the Jewish section.

There was no one in Boston to be the chairman of the meeting to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the Russian Revolution and a comrade was brought from near Worcester to be the chairman of the meeting! (At the 13th anniversary celebration a chairman will have to be brought from New York, no doubt.) Quite clearly, the Party is progressing!!!

L. SCHLOSSBERG

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AMTER'S SHOP BULLETINS

Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Comrade:

Enclosed you will find postal order for five dollars from Comrade Plarinos and five from me.

Whenever you are on a speaking tour up this way we will try to arrange a meeting here if such is possible.

The official crowd have given out many copies of the Red Ingot at the mills around here and the Daily Worker has carried some articles supposed to be from a Worker Correspondent, a mill worker.

Every one of the workers could see at first glance that the writer of the Ingot and the Daily Worker articles dealing with these mills were one and the same and that he, whoever he may be, knew nothing of what he was talking about.

It was obvious to us all that the writer was one who was never yet on the wrong side of a mill, which is the inside. But what is not obvious, what we cannot for the life of us understand is what he hoped to accomplish by such gross misrepresentation and idiotic exaggeration.

This, I think, shows that it is possible for a guy to wear corduroy, smoke a cheap pipe and yet not be a mill worker either physically or psychologically. But what can one expect from Lovestone's former man Friday of Ohio.

With comradely greetings, I am yours for a Weekly Militant.

CHARLIE BRYNE

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STALINIST DESTRUCTION

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrades:

There sure have been some interesting developments in the Illinois coal fields; also in the Party's attitude in the Chicago cleaners strike of which you will get the details soon. The Party has gone plumb crazy or maybe I don't understand the 9th

period. Bill Foster is the craziest one of all—worse than Amter (Impossible!—Ed.) Looks like they are about to throw overboard, lock, stock and barrel, all the positions and advantages we have won in the past ten years by our many sacrifices and hard fought battle. If a change is not made or if we cannot rise to the occasion, all seems lost and the movement will have to be placed in the position of starting all over again at the beginning with Communism discredited in the eyes of the masses.

The comrades have arranged another party and dance for The Militant. The last one was quite a success financially and otherwise and this one is expected to be even better. A sub-getting campaign is also being prepared.

With Communist greetings and confidence in the success of our forthcoming Weekly, I am,

Fraternally yours,
JOHN MIHELIC

The Twelfth Anniversary

Continued from Page 2

ian nucleus will need a leadership. It will be able to lead it only in the Communist Party, tempered in the struggle.

We approach this thirteenth year as workers, proletarians, but we approach it without the slightest pessimism.

The principle of the proletarian dictatorship has entered firmly into history. It has shown the formidable power of a young revolutionary class directed by a Party that knows what it wants and how to combine its will with the march of objective development.

The twelve years that have passed by have shown that the working class even of a backward country can not only dispense with bankers, landlords and capitalists, but that it is capable of giving industry a much more rapid development than it knew under the domination of the exploiters.

These twelve years have shown that an economy centralized according to a plan is far superior to capitalist anarchy.

All these conquests, all these lessons, all these examples, remain unshakably fixed. They have entered forever into the consciousness and the practice of the world's working class.

We repent nothing and we renounce nothing. We live with the ideas and the state of mind that animated us during the days of October, 1917. Through the temporary difficulties we can see ahead of us. Strong though the windings of the river may be the river flows toward the ocean.

Constantinople, October 17, 1929

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SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.: McDonald's Book Shop, 65 Sixth Street.
LOS ANGELES, Calif.: Belmont News Co., 101 East 5th St.; Western News Stand, Box 604, Arcade Station.
WASHINGTON, D. C. Gale's Book Shop, 805 Tenth St. N. W.
CHICAGO, ILL.: Cheshinsky's Book Store, 2720 W. Division St.; Horsley's Book Store, 1623 W. Madison St.; and on various newsstands.
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.: Joe Angelo, 431 No. Wesley St.
BOSTON, MASS.: Shapiro's Book Store, 7 Beach St., near Washington.
ROXBURY, MASS.: Goldberg's Store, 536 Warren St.
DETROIT, MICH.: Aidas Book Shop, 1713-24th St.; and on various newsstands.
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CALGARY, ALTA., CANADA: Boston News Co., 109-8th Ave. West
TORONTO, ONT., CANADA: On various newsstands.
NEW YORK, N. Y.: On various newsstands in New York and Brooklyn; Biederman Bookstore, 2d Ave and 12th St.; Rand Bookstore, 7 East 15th St.; The Militant, 25 Third Ave.
In addition to the stores listed above, The Militant also can be obtained through members and Branches of the Communist League of America.
Workingmen and women who wish to get in touch with Branches of the Communist League of America (Opposition) obtain The Militant are requested to write THE MILITANT, 25 TH' Room 4, New York, N. Y.

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