

Mass Speaks at Open Forum in Detroit

DETROIT—At the Workers Open Forum held on Wednesday, Dec. 11th, Barney Mass of the Communist League, spoke on the crisis in the Communist International. Dozen members of the Young Communist League put in their appearance, evidently with the intention of disrupting the meeting.

Fellow-worker Erwin, the chairman of the forum, apprehensive of the official Communist party's tactics, was prepared for intrusion. After Mass had exposed the vicious theory of socialism in one country as being the crux of the effort to re-duce Marxism, and responsible for the catastrophic happenings in the International, more courageous League member yelled: "It's a lie." This apparently was to be the signal for a systematic drive to heckle and break up the meeting.

Erwin however, instantly left the platform and emphatically impressed the young Communists that no interruption would be tolerated and if they had any questions or opinions to express they would be afforded ample time at the appropriate moment. The League members after looking over some of the fellow workers and discerning their determination to suppress anarchy in a quick manner, decided to leave in an atmosphere of noise to dignify their retreat. The effective escort of some of the fellow workers interfered with this and a few remained behind to listen attentively to the remarks of the speaker. The evening was successful and an interesting session followed.

Mass is to speak at an Open Forum Sunday, Jan. 5th, at 333 Grand River, at 3:30

INGRATITUDE

We read in one of the Daily Worker's issues: "The New York Times (a favorite authority with Trotsky's American disciples on the 'Militant') reports 'that Trotsky owns some property in Berlin, and the case may eventually be heard here.'" (December 17, 1929.)

We are sure that there is some mistake here, which we will generously attribute to the linotype operator who sets the Daily Worker. The Times is not OUR favorite authority. It is the principal authority of the Daily Worker. Where does the Daily Worker get its daily Russian news from? From the correspondence of comrade Walter Duranty, Moscow representative of the Times! Who tips the Daily Worker off on what the new "line" is on this or that question? Good old comrade Duranty! Who puts the Daily Worker wise on what Stalin wants to say about Trotsky or the Trotskyists or about Bucharin and the Bucharinists? Most honored and respected comrade Duranty! Who saves Stalin the trouble of sending cablegrams to the Daily Worker about the latest zig-zag in policy? The New York Times cable service and its most esteemed, most faithful and most "bolshhevized" Moscow correspondent, comrade Duranty! What paper is the Daily Worker's favorite, guaranteed authority on Russian events? The Moscow dispatches of what paper does it copy word for word without the courage or courtesy of acknowledging their source? The New York Times! So don't jump on the Times so eagerly, comrades of the Daily Worker. Don't bite the hand that's feeding you news.

LOVESTONE'S USEFUL WORK

The political feature writer of the Jewish Daily Forward, Zivion (Dr. B. Hoffman), former member of the Workers Party and leader of its Jewish section who returned to the yellow trough, writes about his old friend Lovestone as follows: "Well, I know what will come out of Lovestone's work, but I must admit that he is really doing good work. He has never yet done such useful work for the working class as today." (12-18-1929.)

Water is not the only thing that rises to its own level!

MORONS WANTED—NOT WORKERS!

NEW ORLEANS—"We need morons in New Orleans," Dr. R. N. Bond told vociferously, meeting in New Orleans, "to do the work we don't want to do." He in the operation of various types of machinery where girls with the men of a 6-year-old were more efficient college graduates.

CHRISTMAS FOR LABOR

By Grace Hutchins

NEW YORK. (F.P.)—Once more at this Christmas time, a fraction of New York's poverty stands revealed on the country's stage, produced for the eighteenth time a benefit performance called The Hundred Neediest Cases. Well-to-do benefactors satisfy themselves by paying \$300,000 or more for the showing of how the other half lives in the world's richest city.

A Publicity Stunt

Workers and their families, caught by unemployment, old age, illness or death of the wage earner in a country that provides no social insurance, are paraded before footlights of publicity. They are made to display their private lives, their entire economic situation. But the publicity lasts only three weeks. The curtain falls; the rich forget the play, and behind the scenes, hidden away in dingy tenements, the workers live out reality.

That the "cases" displayed are only a small fraction of those on the lists is emphasized by all the nine charity organizations participating. One of the societies told Federated Press that it carried 2,800 cases at present. Another said it was carrying 2,500, and "more are coming for help every day." Of course no such organization says anything about the countless underpaid workers who are not yet at the despairing point of seeking private charity.

Starvation Conditions

Dick B., a pressman by trade, was out of work for weeks, with a family of nine to feed. He had been existing, with his wife and seven young children, on a diet of dry cereal for breakfast and watery soup flavored with potatoes for midday and evening meals. Mrs. B. is too starved to attempt soon the support of the family. (Unemployment.)

A shoe worker had tuberculosis. The men who had worked 12 years beside him in the same shoe factory pitied him and when exhaustion forced him to go home early they finished his work for him. In spite of their help his wages began to decrease. Now he is in a tuberculosis hospital. His seven children are undernourished, dangerously so. (Illness.)

Alone at 61, she makes flowers. Her husband died. She has never worked outside; and there is very little she can do now, because an accident many years ago left her right arm and hand hanging helpless by her side. She makes artificial flowers slowly, with her good left hand, and asks, gently, for the first time in her life, for help. (Death of the wage earner.)

Too Hungry To Move

Too old to work even at 50 is the latest dictum of personnel managers. Minnie L. is not much more than 50. For 10 years the \$15 a week that she earned in good weeks behind a department store counter supported her and her 82-year old mother. Because she was so often hungry that it made her feel sick, she could not move around and wait on people fast and she looked older than her age. So, when business gets slack, she is the first to be laid off. (Old age.)

Labor organizers, analyzing these appeals for the neediest, find they dramatize the four great hazards of a worker's life and the lack of social insurance against these hazards, unemployment, old age, illness and death. A very few of the stories are those of children left abandoned or orphaned—for whom a capitalist state feels no responsibility. All the rest are victims of a society which uses up a worker's body but makes no social provision for the hazards of his life.

Louisiana Standard Oil Signs Wage Contract with Itself

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (F.P.)—The Standard Oil Co. of Louisiana, representative in this section of the pious young Rockefeller, has gone through the motions of signing a collective agreement, covering employes in the Tennessee-Arkansas district. But no shouting and pounding of tables were reported as issuing from the conference room where the agreement was signed. The workers were "represented" by a committee from among their own number "by secret ballot." The management tried to kid itself that this was a kind of collective bargaining, but the men suspect that the company was bargaining with itself.

The company announced that it would allow a week's vacation with pay to every wage earner having a year's service, and two weeks with pay to those having two year's service.

Piously the company let be known the fact that it will not discriminate against employes who join unions. But let them try to get other workers into unions, and—well, just let them.

The "joint conference" broke up after a banquet at which a good time was had by all.

CHAIN GANG FOR JOBLESS

CHARLESTON, S. C.—Unemployment in this city means the chain-gang for the jobless worker or an order to leave town and seek employment elsewhere. Police headquarters have been swamped by jobless workers arrested for vagrancy and as disorderly persons. "This is a very unfor-

tunate situation", stated the chief of police "but there is not enough work here for those who live here."

The city jail not being able to "accommodate" all those arrested, many are released with a warning to leave town and seek employment elsewhere.

WHERE SACCO AND VANZETTI WERE MURDERED

BOSTON—Sanctimonious Boston, which suppresses advanced books and plays while encouraging low burlesque shows, follows Chicago in the extent of municipal corruption, states Walter W. Liggett in Plain Talk. Bootlegging nets \$60,000,000 a year, he charges, and prostitution flourishes to a degree, unknown in other eastern cities. Responsibility is laid at the door of the governor, who appoints Boston's police commissioner, and of the Boston politicians.

The article has been denounced indignantly in the Boston Herald and other newspapers, although privately Bostonians concede the truth of the indictment.

CLEVELAND.—Vice Pres. George M. Graham of Willys-Overland predicts that 1930 will see fewer motor cars produced and sold with prices higher.

The prize of the month for the coinage of new third period words, goes to Max Bedacht for his contribution in the current number of the Communist. He writes (page 680): "The sloganization of the political issues," etc., etc. Any comrade capable of contriving a word like that without turning a hair is evidently the logical candidate for the Party secretaryship.

In German

In English

In Jewish

THE REAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA BY L. D. TROTSKY

After reading this book by Leon Trotsky, now available in three languages, the reader will have a clear picture of the viewpoint of the Russian Opposition and the origin of the present state of affairs in the Soviet Republic. This volume includes a detailed exposure of the campaign of misrepresentation and falsehood conducted against the Russian Opposition and its leader, Trotsky.

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THE MILITANT

Greetings to Weekly Militant

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrades:

This is the first opportunity I have had to tell you how pleased I was with the first issue of the Weekly Militant. I read it from beginning to end without stopping. It is certainly a relief after the many years of bombastic editing of the Daily Worker. Although I am comparatively young in years, I am still not a tenderfoot in the movement. In my time I have seen many papers started and I think I can speak with some authority when I say that never in America was there a paper started devoted to the struggles of the working class that had a better claim to the support of the workers.

Compared to the Daily Worker, the Militant is like day to night. Free from bombast, every article is truthful and to the point. Every word is a challenge to bureaucratism, every line burns with the ceaseless flame of working class determination. Side by side with the splendid theoretical articles by our leaders are the articles from our worker correspondents, reports from the battle front which will grow more numerous as the Militant gains in circulation. And the circulation will grow, let no one be mistaken about that; for we are on the correct line and the road, if difficult is clear ahead.

While every one must push forward with new courage and keep pushing from day to day, it is good to realize that we have taken an important step at this particular time for every day the Daily Worker grows more unreliable and more useless to the working class. That some who should know better continue to go along with it is to be expected, I suppose, for bureaucratism inevitably attracts to it the moral cowards, the weak-kneed, the spineless, the lick-spittles, the lackeys and the job-holders.

Although as a plain worker I have never been given to throwing bouquets, I feel that I must compliment you all on the splendid job you are doing in editing our paper, the Weekly Militant, under the most difficult of circumstances. Keep up the good work. Rest assured we will do ours.

Fraternally yours,
—JOHN MIHELIC

Where to Buy The Militant

LOS ANGELES, Calif.: Belmont News Co., 101 East 5th St.; Western News Stand, Box 604, Arcade Station.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.: McDonald's Book Shop, 65 Sixth Street

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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 Communist League of America.

Workingmen and women who wish to get in touch with Branches of the Communist League of America (Opposition) or to obtain The Militant are requested to write THE MILITANT, 25 THIRD AVENUE Room 4, New York, N. Y.