

THE MILITANT

Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

Vol. III, No. 22,

Telephone: DRYdock 1656 NEW YORK, N. Y. Saturday, June 7, 1930

PRICE 5 CENTS

Electric Chair Threat to Left Organizers

Six workers face death in the electric chair in Atlanta, Ga. because they addressed meetings of Negro and white workers and urged them to fight against lynching and unemployment. They include two white women and two Negroes.

The six workers are held under a state law passed in 1861 which calls for the death penalty for those convicted on the charge of "inciting to insurrection". Up until the present time no one has ever been convicted under that law.

The prosecuting attorney has stated that when the six workers are brought to trial he will demand that they be sent to the chair. Only if the jury that convicts them urges clemency, can they be given a prison sentence instead of being burned to death. The Southern capitalist class wants to quickly stamp out any efforts to organize the Negro and white workers for a united struggle. There is no doubt that a maximum effort will be made to secure a conviction, hoping in that way to terrorize the workers.

Those facing the electric chair are M.H. Powers, Communist Party organizer; Joseph Carr, Young Communist League organizer; Mary Dalton, National Textile Workers Union organizer; Anna Burlak, International Labor Defense organizer; Gilmer Brady, national organizer, American Negro Labor Congress and Henry Storey, a member of the Atlanta branch of the A. N. L. C.

The International Labor Defense is conducting the campaign for the defense of these six workers. So far it has failed to arouse the masses to action. Only a few isolated meetings have been held which have hardly received any publicity in either the capitalist or Party press.

A broad united front movement must be started all over the country on behalf of the six workers. The International Labor Defense together with all labor organizations that can be brought into action must arrange mighty protest demonstrations demanding freedom for the jailed

Indian Ferment and Chinese Lessons

Reports from subsidized sources minimize it but British imperialism is nevertheless unable to suppress the fact that the Indian ferment is still gaining in breadth and in depth. The insurgents have begun to pass over from breaking the government salt monopoly to the refusal to pay taxes. Simultaneously the civil disobedience campaign which the petty bourgeoisie, in fear of real mass action strives to hold within the limits of pacifist non-resistance—is overflowing the barriers erected for it by the Nationalist Congress.

After generations of oppression and exploitation, the Indian masses moving in tidal waves of revolt are presenting the world with one of the grandiose spectacles of history. The uprising of the colonial Orient, precipitating the solution of the agrarian and national problems of the democratic revolution in conjunction with the international and socialist revolutionary whose class bearer is the proletariat—this is one of the outstanding features of the final stage of capitalism.

MacDonald—Bourgeois Agent

It is no less characteristic that the torch-carriers of the imperialist suppression of the Indian revolt, should be the "socialist" Labor government of the canting MacDonald.

How can any worker still cling to his last remnant of faith in the social democracy? The Indian situation fully confirms the justice of Lenin's contention that the "socialists" are agents of the bourgeoisie. Mac Donald is prepared to repeat a hundred Amritsar massacres to maintain the Empire. No revolutionary Marxist expected anything else from the Labor government but the continuation of the long chain of crimes and betrayals committed by the Second International since 1914. Socialist reformism inevitably becomes socialist imperialism.

But it would be a profound mistake and delusion to conceive of the present crisis in India as the decisive struggle for freedom from British imperialism. The movement of the masses still has no other leadership than the bourgeoisie and all historical experience bears out that the bourgeoisie will betray the struggle at the first opportune agreement that they reach with the foreign imperialists and at the first sign that the masses are turning not only against the foreign but no less against the native exploiter. The bourgeoisie in the epoch of imperialism is incapable of carrying on a consistent struggle for the democratic revolution, and has no intention of peacefully allowing the proletariat to assume the leadership. Here the lessons of the Chinese Revolution are an invaluable source of instruction and guidance for the proletarian vanguard in India.

India and the Proletariat

The Indian Revolution will triumph under the leadership of the Indian proletariat or not at all. It will triumph as the dictatorship of the proletariat or not at all.

This means that there are certain indispensable pre-requisites for the revolution. That the Communist International, the world organization of the revolutionary working class, should have to enact the role practically of a passive onlooker in the present crisis, is one of the most damning indictments of the Stalin regime. That there is no Communist Party in India today worth its salt is the direct outcome of the

(Continued on Page 8)

Build Mass Movement for Mar. 6 Jailed

Growing out of the campaign on behalf of the millions of unemployed workers in the United States, and directly from the March 6th Unemployment Demonstration in Union Square, New York City, Wm. Z. Foster, I. Amter, Robert Minor and Raymond have been serving sentences of six months to three years upon trumped up charges and conviction for "inciting to riot". In unparalleled star-chamber proceedings denied bail and jury trial and an opportunity to have defense witnesses heard, the defendants, Communists, were railroaded to long, harsh prison sentences.

New York capitalism has demonstrated graphically the viciousness and hatred of capitalist class justice against workingmen and their leaders. In other parts of the country, the bourgeoisie follow the lead of New York in the extension on a national scale of the persecution of the Communists and other workers.

The passivity and apathy with which the New York convictions have been met is appalling, and symptomatic of the impasse which the official Communist Party has reached. Hardly any agitation is carried on by the Party press or Daily Worker to effect the release of the four Communists and to expose the machinery which brought about their conviction. Why has the Party made virtually no efforts to rally on behalf of the four convicted leaders those workers who it declared followed its banner at the height of the unemployment crisis? Why are there no steps taken for a wide united front to arouse the working class to demand these comrades be released forthright from their incarceration? It can and must be done. Various elements in the labor movement can unquestionably be brought into action in this case.

Rumors are widely current in Party circles that behind the scenes a game is being played to obtain the release of the framed-up men. This is wrong and will get the movement nowhere, and least of all

(Continued on Page 5)

Maintain the Weekly Militant!

Shall the WEEKLY MILITANT continue? Our readers, the sympathizers, supporters and members of the Left Opposition have to decide this question now—and decisively.

On November 15, 1928 the first number of the semi-monthly Militant appeared, and first publicly broke the conspiracy of silence and the reign of ideological and physical terror of the Stalins and Bucharins, the Fosters and the Lovestones, carried on for years against the true standard-bearers of Bolshevism, the Russian Opposition-Bolshevik-Leninists, led by Leon Trotsky. For over a year and a half now, the actual views of the International Left Opposition have been regularly brought before the American Communists and the working class. The Militant, official organ of the Communist League of America (Opposition), has been all this time a flaming torch, burning away the poisonous roots of the Centrist and Right wings in the Communist International and the United States, and guiding the bewildered Communist movement again onto the path of Lenin's teachings.

The incomparable writings of Leon Trotsky, Christian Rakovsky and other outstanding Bolsheviks have appeared regularly in the Militant, and only in its columns.

The truth about the conditions in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the causes of the divisions and splits in it, the ramifications of the Russian struggle in the Communist movements of all countries, the program of the Russian Opposition to save the Bolshevik Revolution from the danger of Thermidorian developments, has been unfolded in the Militant.

Now more than ever the Militant must remain a weekly. The present adventurist course of the Communist Parties internationally follows upon the heels of the brazen Right opportunism of the previous period. We are now paying the price for all these years of accumulated blunders, in the prevailing apathy among Party members, in hundreds of good fighters quitting the struggle for lack of perspective. We are losing one position after another in the unions. The Left wing Industrial Unions have been reduced to impotence. Only the Militant presenting a clear line of Leninist tactics, combatting the irresponsible regime of Browder-Foster as well as the Lovestone Right wing can turn the wave of apathy into one of struggle, can prevent the Syndicalists and "Socialists" from turning the crisis in the Comintern to their profit.

The Communist movement and the working class can ill afford to lose the Militant, or to have it retreat to an existence again as a semi-monthly publication.

With confidence and faith in the integrity of the rank and file of the American Communists and the working class, the National Conference of the Communist League of America (Opposition) held in Chicago in May 1929, decided to launch the Weekly Militant, and to rely for its continuance upon the support of the honest worker-Communists in and outside the official Communist Party.

A period of six months trial for the Weekly Militant was projected. By might and main, by heroic efforts by the members and sympathizers of the Opposition, the WEEKLY Militant has been maintained now for almost seven months.

NOW WE ARE FINANCIALLY AT A CRUCIAL POINT, and we put the question squarely and frankly: SHALL THE WEEKLY MILITANT BE MAINTAINED?

The Plenum of the National Committee of the Communist League, after thorough discussion and analysis, came to the viewpoint that the WEEKLY MILITANT CAN AND MUST BE MAINTAINED for the cause of revolutionary Communism. Again, we declare our belief, based upon the experiences of the past year and a half, that the genuine adherents of Communism will make this historic task possible. We began the Militant on a shoe-string. We maintained it as a semi-monthly. We started the WEEKLY without substantial resources, but the militant fighters of the Opposition dug deep and made it live.

We turn again to our supporters and readers and ask them to rally to the WEEKLY MILITANT. For lack of funds, we have already skipped one issue of the Weekly. We do not want to miss another. For the next period, in addition to the normal income of the Militant, we call upon our readers and supporters to donate \$2,000.

Much as has been done, new ground yet remains to be broken. We have been pioneering with ideas. The ideas of the Opposition, the aspirations and needs of the working class—must triumph. By helping to MAINTAIN THE WEEKLY MILITANT, you can do your share.

Send your contributions at once to the MILITANT, 25 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA (OPPOSITION)