

Solidarity on the Streets**New York Demonstrates for India**

The British consulate was the scene of a militant demonstration of 1,500 workers who attempted to address the mass from the front. Following the mass meeting in Battery Park the march of the workers on Whitehall Street began. Shouting revolutionary slogans and singing revolutionary battle songs, the procession advanced to the vicinity of the consulate. It was here that Mulrooney's police thugs swept in with their accustomed brutality. A worker who attempted to address the mass from the steps of the building was arrested by the police and pulled down.

This was the signal for a concerted onslaught of the police on the demonstrators. The workers fought back bravely until the police re-inforcement arrived in the shape of an emergency wagon with sirens shrieking, prepared to hurl tear bombs. Four comrades were arrested, Rollins, Manusky, L. B. Cohen and one other. Several workers were terribly man-handled and one Beatrice Blosser was knocked unconscious.

The demonstration was called by the New York district of the Communist Party and all workers organizations were invited to participate. The Communist League (Opposition) in New York immediately signified its decision to take part. We wrote a letter to the International Labor Defense notifying them of our intention and asking whether legal aid and defense would be extended to any comrades of the Opposition who would be arrested in the course of the demonstration. We received no reply from the I.L.D. which still leaves the question open whether the I.L.D. is an organization for the defense of the revolutionary movement at large or only the auxiliary for the defense of the adherents of the Stalin faction which momentarily controls the Party machinery.

Immediately we arrived at the demonstration we unfurled the banner of the Communist League which bore slogans denouncing British Imperialism and manifesting solidarity with the Indian Revolution. It was here that the functionaries of the Stalin group struck an ally note that threatened to disrupt the mass meeting before the demonstration could get under way. A series of physical attacks began on our comrades who carried the placards bearing our slogans and Militants. Among the rank and file Party comrades there was a noticeable current to resist this breach by their officials of the united front of the demonstration. But the officials went around agitating for a pogrom and comrades Berman and George Clarke were set upon by the functionaries tools, certain half-underworld types that have bored their way into the Communist Party under the present regime. Finally our placard was destroyed, but our comrades held their ground staunchly and would not be eliminated.

While the Daily Worker maintains silence regarding our presence at the demonstration, the Freiheit, and the UJ Elore both shamefully surpass themselves.

The Freiheit is the Party organ whose editor is the old Menshevik, Olgin, Abe Cahan's old crony and a former strong believer in the Sisson documents that "Lenin and Trotsky were German spies". This Freiheit came out with the unspeakable statement that the "Left renegades were in a united front with the detectives to break up the meeting, etc., etc." It would be tragic if it were not so ridiculous that no worker in his senses reads this without shrugging his shoulders and feeling

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kept secret from the membership until they have received the approval of Stalin. Balam, Enshah and Wicks, the last of the Lovestone Mobians in the Party leadership were dropped from the C.E.C. Ella Reeves Bloor takes the place of Anna Damon as the dowager. The Party secretariat—God save the mark!—is composed of Browder, Hathaway and Bedacht. However, Bittelman is on his way home from conquests in the Indian revolution and Bedacht will be transferred to Moscow. Alexander will now prepare to wield the sceptre while Browder and Hathaway run messages.

But the very last word in the Party will be with the Bolshevik-Leninists.

—M.S.P.

ashamed that what was once a Communist paper should have sunk to the degraded spiritual level of the yellow Forward.

We repeat—such factional tactics will not deter us. As Communists we continue to participate in every class struggle demonstration of the Party against capitalism and imperialism, without abandoning our Marxist right and duty to work for the clarification of principles, the correction of political blunders, and a Bolshevik Party regime.

—Sp.

«CLARIFICATION»

If ever one is looking for clarification on certain important questions and he wants to become muddled, he has but one thing to do. He can ask a member of the Communist Party to explain to him. A very striking incident occurred a few days ago, when another comrade and myself were walking through a park where many members of the Communist Party and of the Left wing unions hold unofficial meetings. One of them appoints himself speaker and chairman and answers any questions that his comrades may put to him.

When I joined the group, the self-appointed speaker was explaining to another the position and purpose of an industrial union. After he had exhausted all the stories he knew about his comrades in Russia about his shopmates, and had omitted to answer the question, he asked for other questions. I very naively asked him what the dispute was between Trotsky and Stalin and wherein they differed in principle. The question was taken up.

After speaking about a half hour to explain why he thought he ought to answer that question saying that in spite of the fact that Trotskyism is a dead issue he considers it his duty to explain to a young worker the truth and to keep her from going astray; he wasted another half hour telling me about Emma Goldman. Finally he came to Trotsky. He began from the end, he said to come to the beginning.

"Now this Trotsky, who set himself to the capitalist class, who writes for their press, who betrays the working class, has been expelled from the Communist Party because he is a traitor." Here many of the other members of the Communist Party objected. That is not the way to explain a question, they all said. This is a very significant fact for us.

The comrade started again. I said that I would not listen to any scandal stories but I wanted to know the difference in principle. The comrade was in a loophole and again started to tell me all the black stories he knew about comrade Trotsky. Finally I was given the chance to explain the question myself.

After a short talk I noticed that quite a number of the Party members were in full sympathy with me. Many of them agree that it was not a question of personal grievances that put comrade Trotsky out. Many of them objected to the way the Communist League of America (Opposition) had been treated in the last demonstration. Some agreed that it was wrong for League members to be expelled because of their views. This all is very significant to us because it shows that we are growing in influence. Those that agreed with us that it was a question of principle and that principally comrade Trotsky is correct said that the only reason that they did not join us was that they had to keep the unity of the Party. That, to them, counts above everything else. However, we are breaking through the thick wall set up by the Party bureaucracy.

—REVA CRAINE

THE FOSTER FACTION

Lack of principle, characterlessness, intellectual and political cowardice on the part of the Foster-Bittelman group of "leaders", so clearly and so disgustingly revealed in the whole pre-convention and "anti-Trotsky" campaign, are the manifestations and the result of their contradictory and impossible position.

—FROM THE PLATFORM OF THE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION ADOPTED (CHICAGO) MAY 29, 1929

A Stalino-Fascist Attack**Cleveland Workers Reply to Hooliganism**

CLEVELAND—

Following a fascist attack by the Stalinist clique on the public meeting arranged by the Communist League to hear Max Shachtman speak on the Left Opposition and his recent visit to Europe, local police swooped down on the meeting and arrested eleven workers, including comrades John Brahtin and L. Bryar, the owner of the meeting place, a couple of Party members, and a half dozen others who came to the hall. The "broad and non-partisan" International Labor Defense proceeded to bail out everyone but the two comrades of the Opposition.

The meeting was scheduled for the Painters Hall, but when the committee and the audience of 100 workers gathered there, the hall was closed and the caretaker nowhere in sight. His failure to appear was greeted by the assembled C. P. members with knowing grins. It was impossible to get a new hall immediately, and the Stalinists were overjoyed, until the Hindu owner of a restaurant, sympathetic towards the Party offered to rent his place as a makeshift. The committee in charge accepted the offer and announced the change of place on the street. The assembled workers then proceeded to march through the city to the restaurant, located two doors from the official Party's district office.

After some 70 workers had entered the restaurant and taken seats, a gang of some 20 Party members came down from the Party office, up the stairs leading to the restaurant, and attempted to break through the guard at the door. They were composed largely of the same people who had come down armed with blackjacks and knives a year before to break up the meeting organized to hear comrade J.P. Cannon. In spite of their fascist record, the door committee offered to let 10 of their number come in free of charge in order to take the floor and speak for the Stalinist standpoint.

The hoodlums refused to accept this proposal and started to create a violent disturbance. The door was nevertheless held, until the gang suddenly pulled out their weapons of Stalinist enlightenment—blackjacks, clubs, iron bars, brass knuckles, knives—and began wielding them murderously against the Opposition comrades at the door. Our comrade, Joseph Keller was badly cut around the head, his lip was laid open and he was kicked repeatedly in the stomach. Despite their superior numbers, however, these fascists who disgrace the name of Communism were repulsed by the Opposition comrades who were aided by many of the workers in the hall, including members of the I.W.W., who were incensed at the outrageously anti-working class tactics of the Stalinists.

A squad of police and detectives appeared immediately, and were directed to

The Opposition in Brazil

Our comrades of the Communist Opposition in Brazil just issued the first number of their paper, *A Lucta de Classe* (The Class Struggle). As has already been pointed out, the Left Opposition in Brazil is rallied around the "Lenin Communist Group", which has strong working class support in Rio De Janeiro and Sao Paulo, the largest industrial city in the country.

We enthusiastically greet the appearance of this paper which strengthens the Left Opposition on American soil. There now exist in the Americas four journals of the Left Opposition, around which the workers are being organized in spite of the difficulties that confront them: The Militant, in the United States, the Bulletin of the Communist Opposition, in Mexico, La Verdad in the Argentine, and A Lucta de Classe in Brazil.

The journal of our Brazilian comrades will probably, appear semi-monthly. It is printed in four pages of large format. In the first number we find an editorial on "Our Objectives", articles on May Day, on the new policy of the Communist Party, Trade Union notes, an extensive labor chronicle of Sao Paulo, Lenin's Testament, and an extract from Trotsky on the "Radicalization of the Masses".

The Opposition is on the march! Against the Right wing and Centrism and for the preservation and strengthening of revolutionary Marxism!

the hall by one of the Stalinists, Cullen name, who has probably been taught by the district organizer, Bimba that even cooperation with the police is permissible in the struggle against the "counter-revolutionary Trotskyists". The meeting, of course, was then broken up.

The Opposition comrades immediately proceeded to the Public Square and announced a meeting for the coming evening to protest against the shameful knife-work of the Stalinists. The next evening, the Opposition comrades arrived to find both Public Square "stumps" occupied by Stalinists, who were apparently in frenzied fear of having the workers listen to the Opposition's point of view. We nevertheless set up a park bench at the other end of the Square and comrade Boich had just begun speaking when the same hooligans appeared once more and began to boo and shout like madmen. They attempted to rush the platform, but meeting with better resistance than they expected, they had to give up. Again the cops arrived, and our bold Stalinists fled precipitately in four directions. We remained and continued our meeting, with the Party opening up immediately on the other "stump". Comrade John Foley, the chairman, introduced comrade Shachtman who spoke at length on the events of the night before and then delivered his lecture. Almost a thousand workers packed the square, and the loudness with which the radical workers of Cleveland denounced the fascist attack of the Stalinists was enough to make the latter's ears tingle. The Party speaker, one I. O. Ford, who was delivering himself of a despicable attack upon the Opposition as "counter-revolutionists" and "enemies of the workers", was properly exposed by comrade Boich as having been a private detective, i. e., a stool pigeon, just a little while ago, before he joined the Party and became so ardent a supporter of Stalinism.

The quick and authentic reaction of the Cleveland workers to Stalinist gangsterism was one of the severest blows the latter has yet suffered. These contemptible tactics imported into the labor movement from the armory of Mussolini, Lewis, Sigman and their ilk, only serve to disgrace and discredit the whole Communist movement, to expose the political weakness of Stalinism, and alienate the best sections of the working class. The rank and file workers in the Party have no stomach for them—wherever they are practised, it is only under threats of discipline from the bureaucrats who stay discreetly at home.

Let the Party members and the militant workers in general reflect seriously on this: What is it that the Stalinist bureaucracy fears so desperately in the platform of the Opposition that it attempts by the basest methods of fascism to prevent its being heard? These methods will not do. Many cities have already shown that Cleveland has just shown it again. The standpoint of the Opposition is making its way to the workers. It has only become stronger and better consolidated in Cleveland after the hooliganism of the Stalinists was used against it.

—M.

AFTER THE CLEVELAND RIOT

(The author of the following letter was one of the Opposition comrades brutally attacked by the Stalinist pogromists at the Cleveland mass meeting for comrade Max Shachtman.)

Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Comrades:

Although still in pain, I am determined to rush whatever little help I can toward sustaining our fighter, the Militant. Comrade Michael Miklovich paid his debt in renewing his sub for the Militant, while he decided to donate two dollars towards the Sustaining Fund. He offered said amount to me in order to help me pay the doctor's bill, but I advised him to help our paper since I am still in a position to pay the doctor's bill. Tell Max that I finally had to go to the doctor to have my wounds examined, and they were accordingly treated, and now I feel much better. I don't think you would believe what a terror the Stalinists organized against us. Max could tell you what a beating the Stalinists administered to my body, but my enthusiasm for our cause would surpass—any time—all the beatings of the terrorists in Stalin's camp. They got theirs and they have learned a lesson for future discussions. Enclosed you will find money order.

—JOSEPH