

WORKERS
OF THE
WORLD.
UNITE

THE MILITANT



Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

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The Canadian Party Trial

The Government Outlaws the Communist Movement

The first state trial of its kind in the experience of the Dominion has passed into history. On Friday November 13, eight leading members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada were convicted at the Fall Assizes, under section 98 of the Criminal Code on three counts: of belonging to an unlawful association, of being officers of such an association, and of being parties to a seditious conspiracy. Seven were sentenced to five years imprisonment each on the first two counts and two more years on the third count, the sentences to run concurrently. These are Tim Buck, secretary of the party, T. Ewan, secretary of the Workers Unity League, Malcolm Bruce, editor of *The Worker*, John Boychuk, M. Popovitch, Sam Carr, Thomas Cacic was sentenced to two years. All those of foreign birth, though citizens, will be subject to an order for deportation under section 9 of the Naturalization Act which provides for the revocation of papers of anyone "who has shown himself by act or speech to be disaffected or disloyal to His Majesty". An order has been further issued for the confiscation of all party property.

The Offensive Against the Workers
The prosecution has been the high-water mark of the political reaction in Canada since the economic crisis set in. The army of the unemployed has risen to unprecedented proportions. The organized workers are confronted with attacks on their standards of living. The wage cut offensive has been launched against railroad workers, mine workers, steel workers and others. To the demands of the workers for unemployment insurance or adequate relief the Bennett Government has turned a deaf ear. Against the Soviet Union, it declared a trade embargo. To crush the resistance of the masses, to terrorize them against

manifestations of discontent, the possessing classes through their police power have practically abrogated the civil liberties and other democratic rights. This offensive has been waged with particular bitterness and ruthlessness against the Communist Party as the single political organization of the workers which dared to expose the bankruptcy of the capitalist class and to offer leadership against saddling the workers and poor farmers with the burdens of the crisis. Finally the Attorney-General of Ontario instigated a series of raids last August 11, which resulted in the arrest of the party leaders under section 98 of the Criminal Code.

Prosecution Mobilizes Its Heavy Artillery
The section in question was enacted in 1919 by the Conservative Government in office at the time, and determined to suppress the Winnipeg Strike, which was a product of the post war crisis. The section reads: "Any association, organization, society or corporation whose purpose is to bring about any governmental, industrial or economic change within Canada by use of force, violence, terrorism or physical injury to person or property, or by threats of such injury or which teaches, advocates, advises or defends, the use of force, violence, terrorism or physical injury to person or property, or threats of such injury, in order to accomplish such change, or for any other purpose, or which shall by any means prosecute or pursue such purpose or professed purpose, or shall so teach, advocate, advise or defend, shall be an unlawful association".

In outlining his case, the special Crown prosecutor charged that the work of the Communist Party was "a deliberate, continuous, subtle conspiracy directed and controlled by Moscow to overturn by

force, by violence, by bloodshed, all the existing institutions of church and state in Canada". To this end he proposed to show that the Communist Party was formed in 1921 as an underground illegal organization known as the "Z" party, while it carried on its public activity under the name of the "A" or Workers' Party. During this time, he alleged, the Canadian party had been a section of the Communist International and was subject to the control of the E. C. C. I.

The Crown Spy A "Sensation"
The Crown entered on an elaborate description of the internal structure of the party, from the nucleus at the bottom to the convention at the top, the division of labor on the Central Committee, the functions of the Political Bureau, the role of the fractions. The Workers Unity League and the Farmers Unity League, stated the prosecution, (Continued on page 4)

S.O.S! Help The Militant!

Only by the closest economy was it possible to get out the current issue of the *Weekly Militant*. Whether we can continue for another issue as a *Weekly* depends completely upon the money that reaches us in the next few days. Unemployment is heavy among our supporters, we know; still, we count upon our supporters and sympathizers again to rise to our need and send in sufficient money to enable the *Weekly Militant* to keep going during this difficult period.

In all directions, the activities of the Left Opposition—Communist League of America—have extended. More than ever before, the ideas of the Left Opposition make their way in the trade unions and affect the trade union policy of the Communists. Efforts have increased to correct the narrow, sectarian line of the I. L. D. and similar organizations. On the rank and file of the Communist party; the views expressed in *The Militant* meet more and more with a favorable response and sympathy.

An International Paper

The *Weekly Militant* is the only paper in the United States—working class or bourgeois, in the English or foreign languages—that regularly and comprehensively informs the workers on the events, developments and great significance of the Spanish Revolution. If but for this service alone to the revolutionary proletariat, the WEEKLY MILITANT must be maintained.

The WEEKLY MILITANT, better and more accurately than any other working class paper in the labor and revolutionary movement in America, informs its readers on the events and developments of the international labor and Communist movement. It is imperative that our readers make it possible for *The Militant* to continue this historic work.

We ask you who read this issue of *The Militant* immediately to help by SENDING IN A DONATION IMMEDIATELY.

Help to build the SUSTAINING FUND. Decide today that you will make a regular contribution for the maintenance of the WEEKLY MILITANT. It is the best way to organize and systematize the budget of *The Militant*. Become a SUPPORTER OF THE SUSTAINING FUND.

DO YOUR SHARE TODAY!

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★ ★
» OPEN FORUM «

The Manchurian Crisis

Friday November 20, 1931

Lecture by
ARNE SWABECK
at the
Labor Temple
14th Street and Second Avenue
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION
ADMISSION: 25 Cents
Unemployed Workers Admitted Free
Auspices: New York Branch Communist League of America (Opposition)

NEXT WEEK: Friday, November 27th—
After the British Elections
Lecture by JAMES P. CANNON
♦ ♦ ♦

Japanese Imperialists Press On

Unite the Working Class Against the Capitalist War Plots

There is no cessation of military activities between Japan and China on the Manchurian fields. On the contrary, Japan has increased her military forces and magnified her aggressions in Manchuria. Hundreds fall dead and wounded in what the capitalist class merely calls "skirmishes" between Japan and General Ma's Chinese forces in Manchuria. Japan now more brazenly aims for domination of Manchuria and raises the prospective penetration of Eastern Mongolia. Tsitihar may be taken and sacked any day by the Japanese, who thus deliberately aim at incitement of the Soviet Republic within whose sphere of influence and agreements with China, Tsitihar is located.

The League of Nations is now meeting in Paris to attempt to "settle" the Manchurian invasion. The Japanese flatly declined the League of Nations "demand" to evacuate Manchuria of all armed forces by November 16. The League of Nations proves impotent, and the equally powerless Chinese government still looks to the League for salvation. Nor has the United States been successful in her diplomatic approaches and negotiations. On the war front against Japanese imperialism, apart from incidental resistance, China comes beseeching and groveling for peace. Japan, aggressive and certain of its powerful position, sneers at the requests of the capitalist nations, and demands unconditional recognition of her "five points" first. Only the prospect that the Soviet Union may yet be compelled to defend herself against the systematic incitements, by Japan gives the latter pause.

The Japanese Demands
Japan's five demands upon China and the capitalist press are summarized as follows: (1) repudiation of aggressive conduct by China and Japan (hear! hear!); (2) respect of China's territorial integrity (if Japan finds it not possible to elude a big chunk immediately); (3) suppression of all organized movements interfering with trade and stirring up of international hatreds (this refers to the economic boycott of Japanese goods by China, a thorn in the side of Japanese merchants and capitalists); (4) effective protection of Japanese subjects in Manchuria in their trade, etc.; (5) acceptance of the treaty rights of Japan in Manchuria (that is, the continued acceptance of the infamous 21 points forced upon China by Japan.)

According to reports in the capitalist press, it is said that the "compromise" plan of the League of Nations is as follows: To have direct negotiations between Japan and China on the first four points, but that the completion of evacuation shall not depend on these direct negotiations. Regarding the fifth point, involving the 21 points, negotiations thereon shall begin after evacuation has been completed.

Situation Remains Critical

As *The Militant* goes to press, affairs remain at a standstill in respect to the cessation of war hostilities, as well as negotiations for peace. The situation remains critical and the danger of a conflict that would involve all nations in war has not been removed even for the immediate period. Japan has continuously and directly incited and provoked the Soviet Union; the other capitalist powers, led by the United States, have continued also to lie about and slander the Soviet Union, which has a determined peace policy. All the imperialist powers have the ultimate object to unify their forces in a common front of the imperialist bandits against the Workers' Republic.

As a matter of fact Japan's invasion of Manchuria has been given encouragement by some of the imperialist powers, such as Great Britain, and, to an extent by the United States also. Each of them has a close eye to a prospective share in the plundering of Manchuria, Mongolia and China in the forthcoming period. It is not to be forgotten that the United States already has investments of great sums in Manchuria; and though hesitating at open warfare now, fears the constant encroachments of Japan. It prefers at the present time a settlement short of war.

The United States has tremendous hopes, both in Manchuria and China, for wide commercial relations and capital investments. A unified National Government, sufficiently unqualified however to find it necessary to make concessions of an economic and political character to the United States, is the more desirable to her, as against a completely disintegrated China, subject to plunder by all the imperialist powers.

Japan Determined To Dominate Manchuria

Japan, no matter what the outcome of the present embroglio, is determined to intrench herself in Manchuria, having,

in fact, eventual annexation in mind, as well as the further economic penetration of China proper.

Japan feels quite cocky about it all and says she can do a better job of exploitation of the Manchurian masses than others. In Manchuria, for instance, Chinese war-lords have forced upon the population some seven billions of paper money, against which there is a reserve only of 60 million in silver yens (\$30,000,000). Of 200 million yens collected in taxes, 120,000,000 reached the viceroy's office and of the latter amount 80 million went into armaments expenditures. So far as exploitation of the Chinese masses in Manchuria is concerned Japanese control would represent only a change of masters, and the Japanese feel they are more efficient at exploitation than the Chinese militarists. It is to be noted that of the 30 million population in Manchuria, over 20 and a half million of these are Chinese, and the remaining half million composed of Japanese, Koreans, etc.

The Capitalist Powers Want Their Booty

The Foreign powers are apprehensive of Japan's Manchurian invasion, feeling that Japan is taking undue advantage of the situation to create monopolies, and that, they complain, would be "violation of the open door", that is, the infamous policy for common capitalist exploitation of the resources and population of Manchuria and China. The complaint of the capitalists is not at all at the exploitation engaged in by Japan, but at the fact that the Japanese "have their feet in every trough" and the others can't get in. The Japs, in short, result what may of the momentary struggle, are getting and expect to maintain a trade grip in Manchuria, despite the temporary stagnation of trade caused by the battles and the economic boycott of Japanese goods by the Chinese.

In Japan itself everything is being done to foster the jingo spirit. While clanging the fire-arms and beating the war drums, the Japanese bourgeoisie appeal to the narrow "national" interests of the Japanese people. They point out that Japan has already for decades been speeding up her industrial development, finding it necessary more and more to push into Chinese territory for essential raw materials, markets, and capital investment. To maintain her present social, economic and industrial life, they continue, it is necessary by all means to hold and to extend their influence and domination in Manchuria and China.

The Aims of the Chinese Bourgeoisie

On the other hand, the comparatively young Chinese bourgeoisie, hoping to inflict a final or long-enduring defeat upon the Chinese workers and peasants, want and expect to develop China greatly on bourgeois economic and industrial lines. Hence they wish to exploit the Chinese masses for themselves. Here presents itself an immediate and outstanding contradiction of capitalist development in the Far East; and, further, we must remember, both England and the United States, especially, are making every effort to increase their footholds in China. These facts alone increase the prospects of war on a world scale to the bursting point.

The government at Tokyo constantly emphasizes its economic problem. The Japanese envoy to France and to the League of Nations Council, Kenkichi Yoshizawa points out that "beginning with the South Manchurian Railway we have made investments of a purely economic character . . . For the protection of this railway zone we have the right . . . to station 15,000 troops therein. . . Our institutions, railway rights, mining exploitation, timber felling and the like are based upon treaties."

Hence, Japan concludes, it is only exercising "self-defense" in Manchuria, even as does the United States in Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba, Santa Domingo, etc. In brief, Japan operates in Manchuria after the manner of the Western powers that have for decades pilfered and slaughtered in all parts of the world to make secure their pillage, particularly in the exploitation of the colonial and semi-colonial countries.

Japan is determined to rule in Manchuria. In addition to seizing Mukden and occupying additional territory, the Japanese are setting up a puppet Manchurian government, a so-called "independent, autonomous government", which simply means a government of Japanese tools easy to control. The "independence" movement in Manchuria is therefore but another screen to mask Japan's depredations. Only when the Chinese masses in Manchuria establish a Soviet Manchuria, will there be a genuine independent and autonomous Manchuria.

Japan lays her base for any eventualities—peace or continued war. Japan is disturbed that her gold standard also may go into the discard. Her financial

(Continued on page 4)

White Guards Plot Against Trotsky

The German Communist Party central organ, the *Rote Fahne*, reports in its issue of October 31 the discovery of a plot organized by white guards to assassinate leading Bolsheviks. The plot is engineered by an organization called the Russian All-Military Association whose main leader is the one time Czarist general Anton Wasilewitsch Turkul.

We quote from the *Rote Fahne* verbatim: "An extraordinary piece of provocation, as planned by Turkul, is to be the assassination of Trotsky. . . In executing his plans the honorable general will utilize the fact, which has already been reported by his agents, that Trotsky is poorly protected by the Turkish authorities."

This is the story of the German party central organ. It corroborates what we have emphasized so many times, namely, the danger of comrade Trotsky's life in his white guard-infested exile selected for him by Stalin. The white guards have no illusions, and do not for one instant believe any of the Stalinist slanders of "Trotsky, the counter-revolutionary." They know comrade Trotsky exactly in the same way as world capitalism does, as the closest co-worker of Lenin as the one who stood shoulder to shoulder with him in the October events when most of those who now besmirch his name were wavering. They know him as the main organizer of the successful insurrection, as the organizer and leader of the Red Army and as the still uncompromising revolutionary defender of the proud banner of Marx and Lenin. This is why comrade Trotsky's life is in constant danger in Constantinople.

Did Litvinoff know of this danger to comrade Trotsky at the time of his recent visit to Kemal Pasha undoubtedly he did. Did Stalin and his clique of bureaucrats know of this danger when they decided upon comrade Trotsky's exile to Constantinople? Without a doubt they knew that. While we may not become more alarmed by the sinister designs of a general Turkul than of any other white guard mercenary, nevertheless the fact of the always existing serious danger remains. This particular

report lends additional emphasis to that fact. But the all-important question still remains: What is the Stalin regime going to do?

This question every party comrade, every revolutionary worker should ask from the party leadership. Will Stalin take steps to lift the exile of comrade Trotsky and to provide for his return to the Soviet Union? Will Stalin dare to submit this question to the Russian revolutionary workers for them to decide?

Demonstration in Athens Against Terror

—ATHENS, GREECE

Our Greek comrades, the Archio-Marxists (Left Opposition) protested before the Athenian Club in Athens against the terrorist measures that the Greek Government has openly carried on against the striking shoe-makers.

During the meeting of the Cabinet, groups of the Archio-Marxists appeared and protested against the blood-thirsty Venizelos, the notorious lackey of the Greek and foreign bourgeoisie. Within a few minutes, the broad avenue Panepistimou was filled with workers who shouted for a hearing to be given the Strikers' Committee. The strikers carried red banners. A strong police force attacked the demonstrators; our comrades heroically resisted the attacks with stones. With fresh reinforcements, the police succeeded in smashing the demonstration. The leaders and many strikers were arrested.

A little later another group of Archio-Marxists were parading through the Aeolou Street, shouting for the strikers and for the Soviet Union, when a special police squad again struck at the demonstrators and arrested 60 of them. Many strikers were wounded.

The 60 arrested comrades of the Left Opposition are charging with resistance to the police, violation of the seditious law, and illegal carrying of deadly weapons. Athens, November 1st, 1931.

Opposition in Drive for Jewish Paper

The Communist League of America (Opposition) is happy to announce a step that will gladden the heart of every reader of *The Militant* who is concerned with the triumph of the ideas of the Left Opposition.

We have decided to publish a semi-monthly paper in the Jewish language in order to bring the views of the International Left Opposition and its American section, to the Jewish workers.

Over four years have passed since Stalin in a bloc with the Right wing (Bucharin, Rykov, Tomsky), and aided by the very people who later had to stand trial and were condemned as saboteurs, decided to amputate the proletarian Left from the Communist Party and the Comintern. Since then a campaign of terror, slander and vilification, which has known no precedent in the history of the internal struggles inside the revolutionary movement, has been carried on against the brave and sturdy fighters led by Leon Trotsky. These would not falter in their principle convictions before the administrative whip.

The Role of the Press
It is not our task here to recount the details of the struggle. We wish only to point out the tremendous role that the press of the Soviet Union, as well as that of the whole International Communist movement, played in the attempt to silence the voices of the best revolutionary Marxists and the heirs of Lenin. The Stalinist apparatus wielded a whole net of newspapers, like so many parrots repeating at a given signal in almost every corner of the globe, the same slander, the same lies about the Left Opposition. Wherever the Stalinist press did not carry its "message", the capitalist newspapers did the job by repeating in unison the legend that Trotsky's program would lead the U. S. S. R. to ruin, that Stalin is a realist, etc.

But the schemes of the conspirators did not fully succeed. In almost every country where there is a Communist Party, little groups of the Communist vanguard were beginning to doubt the canned stories about the Opposition. Very soon, when the rays of truth were becoming discernible through the clouds, these groups unfurled the banner of the Left Opposition and carried it forward. The Left Opposition was not silenced.

In the United States we are now winding up the third year of the existence of the Communist League of America (Opposition). We have consolidated a group, which even though not as yet numerous, is nevertheless on the increase.

But what is more, we are strong in the conviction of the correctness of the ideas that inspire our struggle, and are confident of the ultimate triumph of these ideas. We have ploughed the ground. We have sown the seeds. We have published some of the fundamental works of the Opposition in book and pamphlet form. Through the pages of *The Militant* we have carried our message to the workers and Communists, pointing out the correct road to them when the apparatus men were deflecting the workers.

Next Step—A Jewish Paper
We must broaden our field of activity. It is in this spirit that we have decided to commence the publication of a paper in the Jewish language. This, following closely upon the publication of the youth paper, *Young Spartacus*, is another progressive step for the Left Opposition.

It is indostestable that there is a tremendous field for an Opposition paper in Jewish. In New York City alone there are four Jewish daily papers, read primarily by workers, besides numerous weekly and monthly publications. All of them, in one way or another, before the issues confronting the workers. The Needle Trades have been the arena of many courageous and bitter struggles. There we have in miniature a display of the profound problems that confront the working class.

Raise Funds
More than ever do these workers need a clear voice. More than ever they must be imbued with a knowledge of what is correct. Unfortunately not enough workers could be reached solely through *The Militant*. We hope that a paper in the Jewish language will therefore prove of a great service.

THE NEED FOR A PAPER OF THE LEFT OPPOSITION IN THE JEWISH LANGUAGE IS CLEAR. We are ready to answer that need. But to get started, we NEED THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS. The next step therefore belongs to our comrades and sympathizers.

In its campaign of slander against the Left Opposition, the Stalinist Freiheit outdoes even the *Daily Worker*. It realizes we had no Jewish medium to reply. Only recently it carried two articles by Larin who tried to deride comrade Trotsky's brilliant theses on the "Problems of the Development of the U. S. S. R." Bankrupt as Larin's argument were, still many workers are deceived thereby. Make it possible for us to bring out a Jewish paper.

SEND YOUR DONATION NOW! Collect from sympathizers. Send all funds to:

JEWISH PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE
Communist League of America (Opp.)
% M. Lewit, 84 East 10th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Third Annual MILITANT DANCE Saturday, Nov. 21 at Stuyvesant Casino