

EDITORIAL NOTES

DARROW AND THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

The withdrawal of Clarence Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays from all participation in the legal side of the Scottsboro case has called forth a chorus of praise from the bourgeois press.

Such arguments are not worthy of a moment's consideration. The I. L. D. was absolutely right in rejecting the presumptuous demands of Darrow and Hays, and the Scottsboro prisoners showed wisdom in supporting the stand of their defense organization.

"You can't mix politics with a law case"—that is a reactionary lie. It is father to the poisonous doctrine that a labor case is a purely legal relation between lawyer and client and the court.



UNITED FRONT PROSPECTS

The most noticeable single trend to be observed in the ranks of the more or less radical workers is the sentiment for unity of action.

the workers' feelings and moods, some of it a bait to catch their attention. The effect of all the talk so far, has been negligible.

On the other hand, the increasing pressure upon the workers strengthens their impulses for a common front of struggle, and raises the issue ever more insistently.

This mass meeting, like the defense committee which sponsored it, was an experiment in co-operation on a single issue of the class struggle—the defense of persecuted workers.

It is no less necessary however, to see the short-comings and the weak sides of this first experiment. There were not a few members of the official Communist Party in the audience, but it was not represented on the platform.

(Continued from page 1) of the whole of Europe, not excluding the Soviet Union. The danger of Fascism is casually referred to from time to time.

And in truth it cannot do so because the German Stalinist high-priests look upon Hitler's capture of power as inevitable.

Boastful Claims and Sorry Realities Month after month now, the German Stalinists have been substituting bureaucratic boasting and self-content for a policy of vigilance and united action.

There lies the crux of the difficulty. The Times editor continues: "The (German) writer finds that against Hitler stands a 'proletarian bloc' consisting of the socialists and Communists, in which he has made virtually no dent since his impressive debut of September 1930."

Stifling the Labor Defense

In a previous article on the dangers, confronting the I. L. D. because of the mechanization of the organization by way of the "group system", it was said that this new plan of organization would deprive the membership of the enthusiasm for activities so much needed in order to carry on mass defense work.

Times (1-12-32), commenting upon a review of the situation by the Berliner Tageblatt, observes that to argue from Hitler's recent electoral gains "that it needs only another few months of the same pace to produce a Hitler majority in the nation is erroneous."

On one sense at least the essence of these observations is correct. The Hitler reservoir is being exhausted—a fact about which Hitler is not at all unaware.

The Times editor continues: "The (German) writer finds that against Hitler stands a 'proletarian bloc' consisting of the socialists and Communists, in which he has made virtually no dent since his impressive debut of September 1930."

The official leaders have followed one false and criminal policy after the other in recent years, swinging from a sterile and noisy adventurism to an equally clamorous and fruitless opportunism.

Now, in the face of all the boasts of the immediate past, in the face of all the bragadocio and loud-mouthed radicalism, the Stalinists not only reject the imperatively needed united front with the social democratic workers, but are preparing to quit the field of battle without firing anything more deadly than a manifesto . . . from exile.

Days pregnant with great historical significance are ahead in Germany. False policies, obstinately maintained, will produce ruinous results.

What Stalin Once Advised "Should the Communists strive for the seizure of power (at the given moment) without the social democrats, have they matured to this point—therein lies the question, in my opinion. Taking over the power, we in Russia had such reserves as: (a) peace, (b) the land to the peasant or farming stratum only an insignificant section.

GERMAN OPPOSITION

On Sunday, December 13, the Enlarged National Committee of the Left Opposition of the German Communist Party (Bolshevik-Leninists) met with representatives from Saxony and Wasserkaute (Hamburg) present.

Organization Growing From the reports on the state of the organization it could be seen that the Left Opposition, freed from sectarianism has experienced a gratifying development in the course of the past six months.

Adopt Political Resolution The main point on the agenda was the discussion on the political situation. A vigorously serious discussion developed in dealing with the draft of the resolution. Before all, it was a question of the immediate perspectives of the struggle in Germany and of the question of the struggle against Fascism.

THE MILITANT

Published weekly by the Communist League of America [Opposition] at 84 East 10th St., N. Y.

EDITORIAL BOARD Martin Aberg James P. Cannon Max Shachtman Maurice Spector Arne Swaback

Entered as second class mail matter November 28, 1928 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. Under the act of March 3, 1879.

GERMAN OPPOSITION

out; we are confronted by the need of issuing new editions. Our influence has risen enormously and we are not wrong in contending that in a very short time we shall gain strongly organizationally.

The weakness of our organization still lies in the insufficient organizational activity as measured by the present-day political requirements, as well as on the field of poor and slow accounting.

Adopt Political Resolution The main point on the agenda was the discussion on the political situation. A vigorously serious discussion developed in dealing with the draft of the resolution. Before all, it was a question of the immediate perspectives of the struggle in Germany and of the question of the struggle against Fascism.

THE MILITANT

Published weekly by the Communist League of America [Opposition] at 84 East 10th St., N. Y.

EDITORIAL BOARD Martin Aberg James P. Cannon Max Shachtman Maurice Spector Arne Swaback

Entered as second class mail matter November 28, 1928 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. Under the act of March 3, 1879.

The Swaback Meeting in Youngstown

On January 6, comrade Swaback spoke in Youngstown on the differences within the international Communist movement.

A small group of Stalinists attempted to provoke a fight by a running fire of interruptions, but had to desist when they received no encouragement from the workers present.

Announcement that Gov. Roland H. Hartley of Washington had granted a parole to O. C. Bland, one of the five remaining prisoners in the Centralia Armistice Day cases, was made a few days ago from the state capital in Olympia.

THE SPANISH ARTICLES

Pressure of space in this number compels us to hold over the first of the series of articles on the situation in Spain, by comrade Max Shachtman, for the next issue of the Militant, where it will surely appear.

Announcement that Gov. Roland H. Hartley of Washington had granted a parole to O. C. Bland, one of the five remaining prisoners in the Centralia Armistice Day cases, was made a few days ago from the state capital in Olympia.

WHAT IS FASCISM?

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER TO A COMRADE

I am writing you today regarding the question of Fascism. It would be well if you were to discuss three questions with the English comrades, since in this manner we can arrive at conclusions and definite views.

What is Fascism? The name originated in Italy. Were all the forms of counter-revolutionary dictatorship Fascist or not? That is, prior to the advent of Fascism in Italy.

The former dictatorship in Spain, of Primo de Rivera, is called a Fascist dictatorship by the Comintern. Is this correct or not? We believe that it is incorrect.

The Fascist movement in Italy was a spontaneous movement of large masses, with new leaders from the rank and file. It is a plebeian movement in origin, directed and financed by big capitalist powers.

Primo de Rivera was an aristocrat. He occupied a high military and bureaucratic post, and was chief governor of Catalonia. He accomplished his overthrow with the state and military forces.

The genuine basis is the petty bourgeoisie. In Italy it is a very large base—the petty bourgeoisie of the towns and cities, and the peasantry.

This letter is in very rough form. I have not even checked its contents but I trust that you will get the general sense of the ideas expressed. . . . Kadikoy, November 15, 1931. —L. TROTSKY.

WHAT IS FASCISM?

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER TO A COMRADE

I am writing you today regarding the question of Fascism. It would be well if you were to discuss three questions with the English comrades, since in this manner we can arrive at conclusions and definite views.

What is Fascism? The name originated in Italy. Were all the forms of counter-revolutionary dictatorship Fascist or not? That is, prior to the advent of Fascism in Italy.

The former dictatorship in Spain, of Primo de Rivera, is called a Fascist dictatorship by the Comintern. Is this correct or not? We believe that it is incorrect.

The Fascist movement in Italy was a spontaneous movement of large masses, with new leaders from the rank and file. It is a plebeian movement in origin, directed and financed by big capitalist powers.

Primo de Rivera was an aristocrat. He occupied a high military and bureaucratic post, and was chief governor of Catalonia. He accomplished his overthrow with the state and military forces.

The genuine basis is the petty bourgeoisie. In Italy it is a very large base—the petty bourgeoisie of the towns and cities, and the peasantry.

This letter is in very rough form. I have not even checked its contents but I trust that you will get the general sense of the ideas expressed. . . . Kadikoy, November 15, 1931. —L. TROTSKY.