

LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

Among the Unemployed

NEW YORK, N. Y. The 826,000 persons, consisting almost entirely of workers and their families, who are completely dependent upon the various city relief organizations for their food and shelter, are about to learn once more the blessings of living in a capitalist society. This vast number does not include the thousands, who have been refused aid on one shabby pretext or another, nor does it include the tens of thousands of others, who have been patiently starving while their cases are being "investigated."

In the same article it is stated that the daily outlay of \$78,000 is to be cut to \$30,000, which means that over half of those workers and their families now receiving aid will be refused further assistance. But this is by no means the complete story. The Times carried an article on Monday, April 11th, stating that the \$32,500,000 which the city has been doling out since last fall, is practically exhausted and that unless further funds are raised all relief will come to a standstill on June 1st. \$32,500,000 may seem to many an enormous sum of money, but it is less than the wages the millions of unemployed workers in this city would ordinarily earn in two weeks!

Touched by the misery of these "poor unfortunates" the Commissioner calls for an additional \$20,000,000 to continue the "good work". But that the city has definitely decided to pass the buck is proven by the inauguration, some three weeks ago, of the "Block-Aiders". The plan of this organization is to collect money on each block in the city to support the unemployed living on that block, and by these means placing the burden directly upon those workers who still have jobs. While these workers whose wages have been cut in half are saddled with this huge task, the civic association, composed of bosses and property owners, are clamoring for a reduction in taxes and are demanding that the city reduce its expenses by cutting the relief appropriations and by firing large numbers of its employees. They are well aware that these measures will swell the ranks of the unemployed, but they are concerned only with their own profits.

That the workers, all of whom are faced with these prospects, have not in any considerable number begun to fight against them is evident. This is due primarily to the fact that the only party capable of leading them, the Communist Party of America by its false policies and inadequate slogans, has succeeded under Stalinist leadership only in cutting itself off almost entirely from the masses. That the working class of America as a whole is backward is well known, but the pressure of conditions, that is, unemployment, wage cuts and starvation cannot help but move them to action within the coming period.

-W. K.

On Friday, May 6th at 8 P. M. at the Labor Temple, the Spartacus Youth Club will debate the Young Peoples Socialist League on: Socialism vs. Communism—Can the Program of the Socialist Party Emancipate the American Worker? Comrades Glotzer and Ray will defend the Communist position. Frank Palmer of the Federated Press will be the chairman. Both sides are busy preparing.

The big hall in the Labor Temple has been reserved for that evening. Admission is by ticket and is only 20c. Tickets are on sale at 84 East 10th Street.

From a Ford Worker

THE MASSACRE MODEL

The agencies and shops of the Ford Motor Co., on account of the low prices and low running expenses of the Ford cars, kept comparatively busy through the deepening depression. But it reached them, too. The shops became empty. Men were laid off. Dealers went bankrupt. The Ford Motor Co. kept silent. Dealers suffered nervous tensions. While the public was told at regular intervals that thousands of men were going back to work and prosperity, the dealers heard nothing. The Ford Motor Co. had a new car ready for the public. But in the low market it would have been merely another car. It was scrapped. The Ford Co. pursued a policy of watchful waiting. Now it is ready to spring, the real thing. The curtain is lifting and with the V8, the Massacre Model, we behold a new phase of development of the capitalist system. The great advertising machine works better than ever before. While the big press is humming with the heroic attempt of Henry Ford to crank up the stalled machinery of production once more, the Ford dealers and their employers are rounded up and submitted to truly high pressure sales oratory. The high official of the Ford Motor Co. speaking at the roundup in Ohio treated his audience as so many children. He never once even touched the fundamental function of the capitalist system of production; the increasing number of all kinds of commodities produced by labor displacing machines, which less and less people are able to buy. No, the blame was put on the dealers and their employers. It is the failure to meet the customer with the right service smile sticking out of a brand new theater usher uniform. It is the failure to paint a white border around the floor 6 inch high and 6 inch wide, that caused the prospective customer not to rush in. There is nothing wrong with the country physically, it is all mental. "Worry kills, work thrills—now go to work and Spring is not far off." "To be sure there are hardships and suffering. There are employers who toss sleeplessly on their pillows trying to make things meet on payday. But there are heroes among you who decline to lay off men, who look optimistically into the future. Be glad that you are still hanging on. We ought to have enough decency not to bite the hands that feed us (the speaker was hitting at the grumblings of the dealers). What would you do without the Ford Motor Co. providing jobs for you?" Here the writer broke the spell and made the mental note that the workers of America and the whole world will give the only reply to that question in the not too distant future. A reply that will startle the Fords and the Schwabs, the Rockefellers and the Morgans. The workers will give them a tremendous kick in the pants and take away from them the means of production and organize it on a different basis—production for use and not for private profits—will provide a job for every one wanting one.

All this while no hands are working on the V 8. The Massacre Model in small numbers is rushed from one showroom to another. The "thousands" of men are still waiting at this writing for the final word to start in (middle of March). It is a life and death question for the American workers to learn to understand the functions of this vicious capitalist system of ours and prepare for its destruction in order to make room for the new system of production. And don't let them kid you, if they yell "Communists", "Bolsheviks", "Reds".

—FORD WORKER.

APPEAL TO SYMPATHIZERS In cities where we have no branches we appeal to our readers and sympathizers to give us a concrete manifestation of their support by actively joining in the campaign. If they will write us immediately we will outline for them a plan we have already worked out.

All comrades should understand that with our extremely slender resources we are issuing four organs in three languages. The revolutionary movement has rarely witnessed a similar achievement. We are determined to continue, to go ahead as soon as possible. What we need at the present time is a sounder financial basis, an increase in our technical equipment, a wider circle of readers.

All three are, of course, inseparable. They can be achieved only simultaneously: That is why our campaign is organized along the lines described above. We are confident that whoever sees the problem this way will contribute his

Opposition Press Drive: May 1 - June 1

The final month of the Militant subscription drive has been incorporated in a campaign to secure the Left Opposition press. This campaign will open on the first of May and close on the first of June. Its objective is to build a solid foundation for our papers. Its central slogan is BUILD THE OPPOSITION PRESS. Its goal is \$1,000. This is to be distributed as follows: 50% to The Militant; 30% to Unser Kampf; 10% to Communists; 10% to Young Spartacus. This division is exclusive of remittances made during this month for subs and bundle orders. These proceeds will be turned over to the proper organs without division but will be included in their totals.

Quotas have been assigned to the branches. They are: New York—\$400; Minneapolis—\$180; Chicago—\$100; Toronto—\$70; Boston—\$40; Philadelphia—\$40; Cleveland—\$40; Newark—\$35; Kansas City—\$30; St. Louis—\$25; Youngstown—\$10; Los Angeles—\$10; New Haven—\$10; Montreal—\$10.

If any branch is of the opinion that its financial ability has been underestimated in these quotas we will gladly raise its figure with appropriate self criticism. On the other hand nothing can persuade us that any quota should be lowered. Each week we will publish the quota and results attained by each branch for all to see.

These quotas can be realized by working along the lines already worked out and described below.

CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE The first week of the campaign, May 1 to May 6 inclusive, is to be devoted to an organized distribution of recent back issues of our papers, and simultaneous and subsequent follow-up sales of current issues together with sales of our literature. The back numbers will be sent out simultaneously with this announcement. The branches should immediately inventory their stocks of literature, and if short, should order at once.

The second week of the campaign, May 8 to 14 inclusive, is to be devoted to collections. This should be a concentrated, organized drive. Everyone who has an iota of sympathy for the ideas and struggle of the Left Opposition should be ferreted out and asked to help with donations and pledges. All donations and pledges should be solicited for payment during the month. We are counting upon all our members and supporters to take collection boxes and work actively in this collection.

The third week, May 15 to May 22 inclusive, is to be devoted to a canvass for new subs, renewals, and bundle orders for news stands and bookstores. The organization in the second week of the campaign should be swung into line for this work. In this work the literature premiums, combined sub rates, the timeliness of comrade Trotsky's writings, especially on the German question, news stand posters, return privileges on bundle orders should be utilized to the utmost.

The fourth week, May 23 to May 30 inclusive, is to be devoted to the organization of affairs for the benefit of our press. These affairs can be either indoor entertainments in rented halls or private houses, or outdoor picnics, hikes; whatever conditions make easiest and most productive. If possible the affairs should be held during the week-end on May 28, 29, or 30 so that the entire League can wind up the campaign at the same time on a national scale.

Each branch should elect a committee to organize its share of the campaign work. The committee must report all results by air mail. The reports must be in the mail not later than noon on Monday following the close of the preceding week. This is necessary to make The Militant on time. All reports will be published in all our organs. All material necessary for the campaign will be supplied by the national office.

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MILITANT AFFAIR

On Saturday, April 30 at 8 P. M. the New York branch of the League will hold an affair at its headquarters, 84 East 10th Street, for the benefit of The Militant. This affair is being organized by the captains of The Militant subscription drive teams, comrades Craine and Bord. The entire proceeds of the affair will be turned over to The Militant. Admission is by ticket and is only 25c. Tickets can be purchased at the door by those comrades whom we fail to reach through the mail or otherwise. The unique feature of the affair is that everyone who pays for a ticket is entitled to an eight issue sub to The Militant for himself and a friend. Out-of-town branches please note.

time and energy to—BUILD THE OPPOSITION PRESS.

Early this week comrade Coover reported nine subs to The Militant and three to Unser Kampf. This shot Minneapolis to the head of the list in the standing of the branches. And we were going to report it this way. But just as we were going to press New York crossed the tape with one sub, its long contribution for the week, and they were tied. At this rate Minneapolis will realize its intention of giving the New York branch a drubbing. The standing of the branches is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Branch Name, Subscriptions. Minneapolis 33, New York 33, Chicago 8, Boston 4, St. Louis 1, Newark 1, Philadelphia 1, Montreal 1, Miscellaneous 18.

This makes a total of 100 subs against 87 last week, an increase of 13. No new bundle orders are reported.

The situation in Minneapolis can be seen from comrade Coover's words: "The No. 1 Team (Myles Dunne, Capt.) totaled 3 1-2 points for the second week in April making that No. 1 Team's standing 28 1-4 points; while the No. 2 Team (Wm. Curran, Capt.) again increased their weekly total by getting 9 1-2 points, making their total 27 points. Not quite enough, however, to catch up with the No. 1 Team.

"Total points for the Minneapolis branch for April 13 stood at 55 1-4. The next two weeks are going to bring forth some keen competition between the rival teams as the team having the highest total on Wednesday, April 27 are to be the guests at an affair to be put on by the other team. League members and sympathizers should get their subs into the hands of one or the other of the team captains before April 27th."

What is there to say about this except—other branches please copy.

The New York branch is holding an affair for The Militant on April 30. It has a unique idea which can be copied profitably by the other branches. The admission price of 25 cents entitles the ticket holder or a friend to an 8 issue sub to The Militant. The affair is described elsewhere in this issue.

The staff of Militant Builders is growing. It now includes 25 comrades, an increase of four over last week. Minneapolis is more than ever its mainstay. The staff and its record follow: C. Cowl—5; A. Konikov—4; V. R. Dunne—4; F. Barach—4; L. Basky—3; C. Skoglund—3; M. Dunne—3; C. R. Hedlund—3; O. Coover—2; J. Carter—1; R. Ruskin—1; C. Forgen—1; H. Capelis—1; L. Roseland—1; R. Sacharow—1; S. Zalmanoff—1; W. Herman—1; A. Swacke—1; A. Glotzer—1; M. Logan—1; Kaldia—1; G. Ray—1; M. Sterling—1; W. Curran—1.

We expect that the press campaign will see this staff grow to many times its present size. The question now is—will Minneapolis have a pushover, or are the other branches going to wake up and give it a fight?

Nine Years of the Struggle of the Left Opposition -- 1923

(Continued from last issue) In addition to Trotsky's initial letter of October 8, the Central Committee received, on October 15, a letter signed by 46 of the most prominent Russian Bolsheviks, including Piatakov, Preobrazhensky, Sosnovsky, Beloborodov, Sapronov, Muralov, Antonov, Kosolov, Serbriakov, Rafael, Rosengoltz and others, which presented virtually the same criticisms and plan of action as were contained in Trotsky's letter. A short time later, Radek also added his voice to the others, even if more cautiously.

The Bureaucrats "Yield" Under such a bombardment, the majority of the Political Bureau was compelled to act for fear that the wave of discontent would become so mighty as to sweep them away with it. A faint-hearted resolution on workers' democracy was drawn up which met with an instant rejection from Trotsky. Knowing that he represented to the full the hopes and aspirations of the great bulk of the party membership, and especially the masses of the youth who were chafing under the yoke of an arrogant apparatus, the Political Bureau majority was compelled to scrap its own resolution and appoint a commission resulted in the resolution being written essentially by his pen. Its final publication as an unanimous document on December 7 constituted a tremendous victory for the fight initiated by Trotsky.

Unfortunately, the victory was a short-lived one. It had been agreed in the Political Bureau, on Trotsky's proposal, that he would popularize the program of workers' democracy in the ranks, while the rest of the Political Bureau members would "restrain it from excess from above". So overjoyed at the resolution were the party members, that the discussion in the ranks broke loose with a turbulence that indicated many months, and perhaps years, of pent-up sentiments. Even non-party workers followed the discussions with a keen interest. Pravda alone had to publish from 20 to 30 columns of discussions and motions each day. All questions were put and discussed freely and frankly. The popularity of Trotsky and those who had associated themselves with him, grew by leaps and bounds. Stalin, Zinoviev and Co., who had stood in the way as long as they could, came in for heavy criticism which boded them no great good.

IN THE CANADIAN MOVEMENT

Canadian miners

In the lignite coal mining industry of Saskatchewan another wedge has been dug into black layers of coal.

The developments are at present taking place in the southern portion of that Province, at Beinfait and Estevan, the centre of the soft coal mining camps, controlled by British, American and Canadian capital. The town of Beinfait is a typical company town of about 2,800 people, containing all the primitive conditions of civilization, wooden shacks, earthen streets, company stores, etc., and none of its amenities, as far as the miners are concerned. The bosses of this district are virulently against the workers organizing into unions of any kind and when, under the pressure of their conditions, the miners came out on strike under the banner of the Left wing Mine Workers' Union of Canada against their low wages and intensified rationalization, for an equitable distribution of work and the right to appoint their own checkweighman, the operators had their toady on the municipal council of the nearby town of Estevan, where the miners usually meet. Resolutions were railroaded through prohibiting the miners meeting in halls or parading through the streets, using this as a means to hinder the miners in their organization. It is also believed the U. M. W. A. gave the bosses their best advice on how to break a strike.

From the sparse reports received here, the union was successful in calling out a large proportion of the miners, who decided to hold a parade and demonstration in Estevan. It took place on September 29th, 1931. With the sympathy and support of the poor farmers of the district, the parade started off in 80 cars and trucks filled with miners and their families. Upon reaching the town they were met by a cordon of Royal Canadian Mounted Police armed with all the instruments of warfare; three of the trucks turned off the highway into the town, the occupants dismounted and the police came after them and arrested their leader, a miner. Their comrades in other trucks came down and proceeded to see what was the matter; the police, without warning, immediately opened fire on the defenseless men, women and children, who tried to defend themselves by throwing stones at the mounties. Three miners killed and a number injured. Peace, order and good government prevailed!

Six hours later, after the local authorities had been in telephone conversation with the provincial Attorney-General, warrants were issued for the arrest of all Left wing leaders in the district, no doubt at the instigation of the Section 98 Premier, Bennett. 25 miners were arrested, including three of their leaders and charged with "unlawful assembly, rioting, et. al. The "trials", which have been termed by defense counsel as "the great frame-up in the Province of Saskatchewan and the Dominion of Canada" have just concluded. Naturally, all were found guilty by the judge and jury; most of them were placed

on bond or given short terms of imprisonment. A Buller, in charge of women's work, who was not even in the demonstration and to whom the jury recommended leniency, was sentenced to one year at hard labor plus a \$500 fine; Sam Scarlett received one year plus \$100 and I. Minister, two years at hard labor. The judge was especially vicious with those comrades who expressed their working-class sentiments openly in court. For instance, one J. McLean, a checkweighman, who incurred the hatred of the bosses, and whose crime consisted in refusing to cheat the miners, was about to be placed on suspended sentence, and the judge was expressing hypocritical solicitude from his sick wife. McLean informed the judge that his wife needed bread and not judicial sentiment—and McLean was given eight months at hard labor. These cases are being appealed.

The suffering of the miners in the West has made them militant, and sporadic strikes are still taking place. A call has been issued for a general strike, and under proper Left wing leadership this strike activity may be developed into homogeneous action. The miners in Canada and the U. S. A. are beginning to move, and may become the harbinger of the upward swing in the workers' struggles.

Information as to the exact economic influences in the coal industry in the West, the status of the miners, striking and non-striking, employed and unemployed, what role the reformists are playing there, and in general, the correlation of forces, is sadly lacking in the Party press here. Reports issued are merely of an informative and news character. The Estevan case has aroused intense feeling in the West. It should be made a national issue among the workers of the whole Dominion, and linked up with the general terrorism prevailing in Canada which was given the lead in Toronto with the outlawing of the Party and sentencing of eight of its leaders.

—S. GREEN.

Wage Cut Drive

(Continued from page 1)

organized sections it is no surprise at all to learn of the announcement made by the President of the Board of Directors of the U. S. Steel Corporation that new wage reductions are under consideration. To be under consideration by this board usually means to become an unfulfilling reality, only the question of time being involved.

From the A. F. of L. Executive Council there have been many grandiloquent declarations for maintenance of the workers' purchasing power. Wage reductions mean the opposite. It should therefore be about time that the rank and file ask these gentlemen just how serious they mean their declaration. But it is yet more important for the rank and file to realize that nothing will stop this constant reduction of their standard of living except an effective fighting resistance.

Economic Crisis Continues to Deepen

The crisis is still deepening. It is enough to look at the latest Annalist (April 15) to find abundant evidence to that effect. The graphs show that pig iron and steel ingot production have fallen to new lows for the entire period since 1919. All the other indices of the country's production are likewise moving downward.

The expected spring upturn has proved to be another disappointment to the Babsons and the people who still swallow their stuff. The economic messianism of Ford took the form of a machine gun fusillade.

The purveyors of bourgeois optimism now restrict their hope to more qualified formulations than they used formerly. Thus the New York Times of April 18: "During the last week some officials expressed, with what has been described as 'cautious optimism', the view that the worst features of liquidation may be over and that a turn in the tide has come or soon will come, with a slow recovery from economic depression in this country." Expressions heard now are

largely restricted to the belief that indicators point to a check in liquidation and that unless further adverse factors appear, a more hopeful outlook is justified." So speak the capitalist hessians of the pen. It is to throw dust in the eyes.

The authentic spokesmen of capitalism speaks in a more pessimistic vein. J. P. Jordan writing in the April 15 Annalist says, in Face the Facts: "For two full years we all have hoped that the depression in business had spent its force. 1930 was bad; 1931 was worse, and now 1932 seems generally worse than 1931. But the most alarming feature right now is that there seem to be few signs that 1933 will be much better. If this is so, and there are many signs to point that way, it becomes most obvious—that further and deeper adjustments must be made. . . . This is a truer picture of the perspective capitalism holds before itself.

And the remedy it proposes to apply—wage cuts! That is the meaning of Jordan's "further and deeper adjustments". He urges capitalists everywhere to "right at the start let us dispose of the element of sentiment". No doubt the capitalist class intends to launch a new wave of wage cuts. The forthcoming ten percent cut in the wages of the steel workers, announced recently, will be the first point of attack.

The workers must resist. That is the only way to prevent not only this attack on their living standards but the "further and deeper" onslaughts which will follow inevitably if this one is peaceably accepted by them. To the Communist party falls the duty of organizing this resistance and giving it leadership.

—T. S.

DEBATE

On Friday, May 6th at 8 P. M. at the Labor Temple, the Spartacus Youth Club will debate the Young Peoples Socialist League on: Socialism vs. Communism—Can the Program of the Socialist Party Emancipate the American Worker? Comrades Glotzer and Ray will defend the Communist position. Frank Palmer of the Federated Press will be the chairman. Both sides are busy preparing.