

LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

A Criticism of the Needle Trades Article

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Dear Comrades: My attention has been called, somewhat belatedly it is true but still in time, to the article in the April 15 issue of The Militant, entitled "Left Wing Victory or Treacherous Bargain."

In due respect to the property and the office equipment of the union, which would have been damaged in the scuffle had the provocateurs succeeded in starting it, I left the hall, calling to the attention of the comrades the actions of the bureaucracy.

If anyone were to say that all this "encouragement" of criticism is merely a ruse of the official leadership, the average rank and file will object: that is the correct line of the party and the union—the line laid down by Lenin.

It is a common truth that everything that is good and healthy in the Soviet Union can be traced back to the program of the Left Opposition. This is also true on every smaller battlefield.

The bureaucracy of the M. W. I. U. has its roots not only in the National Office or in the party. They can be tracked down through the R. L. U. to the very doorsteps of Stalin.

From a Railroad Worker

Dear Comrade:

I wrote to the railroad worker L— at Kansas City. I also wrote a similar letter to a railroad fireman at Everett, Wash. L— is a locomotive engineer on the Kansas City Terminal Ry., and a member of Division No. 824, B. of L. E.

The Bureaucrats Act against Oppositionist on Waterfront

NEW YORK, N. Y.

When that old fogey, Andrew Furuseth of the International Seamen's Union, back in 1921, threw out members of the Union from the hall, after they had fought militantly on the picket line for over three months, because they exposed the sell-out policy of his leadership, I thought that American seamen would never allow such a bureaucracy to grow again in their unions.

After some fruitless efforts at questioning and record searching, I went back into the hall and was there immediately surrounded by Hudson, secretary of the union, and his Chinovniks, some of whom smelled strongly of bootleg liquor.

I protested that I am still a member of the union, and that if I have done anything wrong, I have a right to get an open hearing before the membership.

Readers will recall that the article in question criticized the point of view of this same Hudson that American seamen are "relatively better off than the other workers", that they have not felt the effects of the crisis and that their wages have not been cut generally.

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The sincere worker and honest critic has to fight his way. He is almost certain to be unpopular, to be in a minority. Often he finds himself outside of the union and forced to go into another organization.

Merely to say that the Party led the demonstration would be to ignore the real attitude of the party leadership. The party really dominated this May Day, from the first propaganda letter to the last word from the platform on the Parade Grounds.

Our loyal and effective work for the success of the May Day meeting most effectively branded as lies, the vicious tales circulated by the party leadership. They were, of course, not content to let our conduct in the meeting further expose them and decided to provoke trouble at any cost.

These comrades, M. and G. Dunne and Louis Roseland were conducting themselves as Communists should, they were carrying Communist literature which called upon the workers to join the demonstration.

At the entrance to the Parade Grounds, worker guards had been stationed in impressive numbers. The task that had been assigned them was, to prevent the comrades of Trotsky from entering the grounds with literature of any kind on their persons.

Only a few short weeks ago, right here in Minneapolis, the police made the same demands upon the very worker guards who carried out this task. The bosses' cops backed up the demands also with threats and with slugging.

It is not our purpose to intimate, in any way, that the worker guards are in league with the police. Not by any means, but we know that it is our duty to bring to the attention of the worker Communists, the false attitude forced upon them by the doubly false and badly frightened leadership.

Although all Firemen's official meetings are supposed to be strictly secret and admission is only gained by submission of secret password and grip, C. R. Hedlund was not only admitted to address the meeting but was invited to remain until its close and was also permitted to participate in the discussion.

He spoke to the meeting on the role of the two administrations of the B. of L. E. and the B. of L. F. & E. were playing in trying to keep him and other militants from joining the ranks of our organized brothers.

May Day in Minneapolis

(Continued from page 1)

thought out. The sections in the various parts of the city and along the line of march up Nicollet Ave. to the Parade Grounds, were adequately and effectively directed.

Literally hundreds of placards and banners of revolutionary significance were carried by the marchers. Communist party banners almost without exception. Communist literature was the only kind on sale, Communist buttons and tags calling for a struggle against imperialist war, were everywhere in evidence.

Regular open forums have been conducted during the winter months by the branches of New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis and for a while in Kansas City. The St. Louis branch, despite its small numbers, made particular energetic efforts in this respect.

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ORGANIZATION NOTES

From time to time we have in these columns emphasized the activities of individual branches. Naturally in this respect the bigger and better established ones can show a better record, but that is only a quantitative difference.

With but one exception every branch increased its membership during the winter. Three new branches were added. They have so far shown up well. In Cleveland we have as members among others the very early Left Oppositionists such as John Brahtin, Joe Keller, Leo Gleisser and others.

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polys on May Day. We of the Communist League (Opposition) understand this

The League comrades are proud of their part in these achievements.

—RA.

THE MILITANT

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

EDITORIAL BOARD Martin Abern 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.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1932 Vol. 6, No. 20 (Whole No. 116)

Subscription rate: \$2.00 per year; foreign \$2.50. Five cents per copy. Bundle rates, 5 cents per copy.

Pioneer Publishers Notes

The Spanish Revolution which began a year ago is not yet completed. Things are happening in Spain, and the reformists of all description are retarding the forward movement of the proletariat.

Germany To fully understand the events as they are shaping themselves in Germany at present, every militant worker should read "Germany, the Key to the International Situation" a small Ten Cent pamphlet. Trotsky has written a new book on the subject, supplementing this—"What Next?—Vital Questions for the German Proletariat."

Bound Volumes of Pamphlets All the pamphlets marked with a * in our list of publications, printed elsewhere in The Militant, will be bound into one volume and sell for \$2 a copy. We have a limited number of 100 copies. To make sure you get yours, send your order at once, enclosing payment.

Draft Program The "Draft Program of the Communist International—A Criticism of Fundamentals," is entirely out of print. We need 25 copies of the paper edition to complete our 100 copies for the bound volume. If you have a copy send it to us and we will reimburse you, or credit you with the price toward the purchase of one of the volumes of pamphlets. "Strategy of the World Revolution is the second part of this criticism."

China "Problems of the Chinese Revolution," a book of 450 pages, will be ready for shipment within two weeks. Paper cover, \$1. Cloth bound, \$1.50. Send your order now as we need funds to rush out the book on Germany immediately after this book.

Certificate Holders Certificate holders are reminded that they are entitled to 33 1/3% discount from their purchases of our publications. The certificates are now ready and will be mailed to all those who paid their full amount of \$10. Those who can afford to buy a certificate now are strongly urged to do so as it will greatly help us to extend our publishing work, to include all the Marxian classics. If you have already purchased one of these certificates, send in your name and address to Pioneer Publishers.

Make Our Press Drive a Success!

We go to press in the middle of the second week of the final month of the press drive. We are therefore temporarily unable to comment on the results of the collections. This we will do next week.

The results of distribution week are full of interest. For example, comrade Milton of the New York branch went out to Union Square with a bundle of three hundred copies of recent back numbers of The Militant. By announcing "Communism or Fascism in Germany by Leon Trotsky" in a loud voice, he disposed of all he had in about fifteen minutes.

Because of the free distributions the results fell off a little. We are confident that next week we will more than make up for this slight lull. Our sympathizers are still responding with excellent spirit. A comrade writes from Rockford, Ill., "Although the times are very hard and I have been unemployed for a whole year now, I would not miss one single copy of The Militant. So I went out and loaned a dollar from a close friend of mine in order to put up my sub. I will try to take advantage of the sub drive and see if I can't earn me a copy of Trotsky's WHAT NEXT? and at the same time stabilize the circulation of The Militant here in Rockford." Go to it, comrade!

The quotas and results to date are as follows:

Table with 3 columns: City, Quotas, Results. Includes New York, Minneapolis, Chicago, Toronto, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Newark, Kansas City, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Youngstown, New Haven, Montreal, Duluth, Springfield, Ill.

W. Frankfort, Ill. 10 Trenton 10 Miscellaneous 8.50

Total \$1,000 112.50

We are still a long way from the goal but with our heavy hitting branches grinding their loins for another assault on the quotas we should be well on our way to success by this time next week. If past performances mean anything then comrade Coover's report is an augury of success. He says: "The comrades have decided on a tag day with distribution and sale of papers for next Sunday (May 14) in Minneapolis and, tentatively, on a tag day for St. Paul a week from Sunday to introduce Unser Kampf and Young Spartacus. In the meantime the comrades are to solicit supporters and sympathizers for contributions as well as subs, renewals, etc., and we are out to get results." We believe they will.

Sixteen subs were reported last week bringing the total for the entire drive up to 203. Eight of these were brought in by the New York branch tightening its hold on first place. Minneapolis will have to step on it if they want to regain their lost honors. The standing of the branches now is: New York—79; Minneapolis—65; Chicago—12; Newark—4; Boston—4; Youngstown—4; Kansas City—2; Miscellaneous—30; St. Louis, Montreal and Philadelphia remain where they were at one each. We call attention to the appearance in the standing, for the first time, of Kansas City. Keep it up, K. C.!

For the remaining weeks of the drive all emphasis must be placed on the financial end of it. Remember that the life of the weekly Militant depends directly upon the success of the drive. No effort must be spared. Money must be raised. Wherever there is a dollar it must be pried loose from its owner. All sympathizers should be canvassed for donations. Sympathizers should not wait to be canvassed. They should respond at once. No amount is too large, no amount is too small. Everybody do what he can! Let us insure the regular appearance of the weekly MILITANT.

Make use of the combined Sub rate of \$2.00 for a year's Sub to THE MILITANT and YOUNG SPARTACUS.

Make use of the literature premiums: A free paper bound copy of the Permanent Revolution with a one year Sub to THE MILITANT (Does not apply to combined rates); a free copy of the Strategy of the World Revolution with each half year Sub; a free copy of a 10 cents pamphlet with each trial Sub of 13 issues.

Don't forget our special offer of 8 issues for 25 cents good only during the drive.

Name Address City State Sent in by Branch.....