LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

Among the Italian Workers in Chicago

In Chicago the leading Italian com- NEW YORK, N. Y. rades were expelled from the party some with me and I agreed to become active with the support of the union officials. amongst them. They were themselves already then leaders of the Italian rev-Workers Club. Now these comrades the movement, such as the united front, the situation in Germany and the question of internal party democracy.

The Italian Workers Club which was formerly controlled by the party has now by collective agreement, been reorganized and its name changed to the Spartacus Workers League. This organization is now contemplating and planning extensive activities. My time is, of course, taken up considerably with the work and collaboration with the leadership of this Workers League.

We have already defeated the party bureaucrats here on the Italian field. To the overwhelming majority of Italian class conscious workers here we represent Communism. There are only 5 Italian members left in the party and they are the most degenerate types having hardly any influence and are the object of laughter by everyone.

On May Day we held a well attended mass meeting in Italian in our center on Roosevelt Rd. After this we formed in marching order and marched through the Italian quarters to the Party Demonecutive composed entirely of expelled party members marched at the head under our own banners. We had behind us 300 Italian workers. When we entered in Union Park singing and shouting our slogans, the workers assembled greeted us with thunderous applause. The Rubickis and Geberts gaped in surprise and wore sickly grins. The party controlled Italians also marched-the whole five of them-and were sore indeed, as they realized the ridiculous figure they were cutting.

We now already have a functioning youth-sports dept. We are organizing a women's dept., and an unemployed council under our direction. We are truly in Chicago.

of Militant Builders. The staff is ap. cotton; and its rice planations and aris- at sixty dollars,-and let ten people parently hot after the prizes offered for tocracy of a former day. Of the gardens starve till next year's crop! the highest standing comrades. The of the Ashley River John Galsworthy staff and its record folow: (figures in wrote, "Nothing so free and gracious, so to a plow guided by a seventy-year-old parentheses are for the last month and lovely and wistful, nothing so richly col. paralyzed father slowly plods a rough are quoted in dollars): C. R. Hedlund ored yet so ghostlike, exists, planted by garden so that the other six children (6)-11; R. Sacharow (6)-10; V. R. the sons of men." M. Gottlieb-1; M. Koehler-1; W. day. Wynne-1; J. Carter-1; H. Capelis-1; Between these two extremes of low-W. Herman-1; A. Swabeck-1; A. Glot- land and high-land lies the major part stomach forced Mr. X to yield to temptazer-1; L. Logan-1; A. KaldisJ1; M. of the state, devoted to cotton mills and tion while away from home searching for Sterling-1.

Minneapolis Branch Challenges Wobblies

orator of the I. W. W. spoke in Minnea. easily; -a soil peculiarly adapted to the cataracts and Aunt Sally became 15th to an audience, the size of which in the past and burned on the spot. strikingly attested to the precipitous decline in influence of that organization log-cabin and the cotton field and blessed which once held aloft in undisputed with a fertile soil and a wonderful climleadership the banner of revolutionary ate under a "smiling providence". internationalism. About 50 persons came to hear the flower of syndicalist thought in this country delineate the nature of struggle. Thompson has forceful uninapt quotations from Marx himself, but fails miserably to explain the politics of Marxism which his syndicalist prejudices do not permit him to understand.

In answer to questions on the subject. he sententiously asserted the argument advanced by the anarchists before the not sit well even with the sympathizers mentarism, and that the I. W. W. when the working class seizes power, "will do everything necessary, to maintain power, even with a Red Army." The writer questioned whether the Red Army, the jails, the courts, police, etc., could be considered economic weapons. Thompson answered that this was merely a quibble, and then proceeded to launch into a violent personal attack on all "politicians", specifically the Communists, triumphantly "convicting" them of wishing to overthrow capitalism at the ballot Leon Trotsky for a clarification of the when he learns about it, that is, what box. It was necessary to attack the So- differences between L. W. W. and Comviet Union as a capitalist nation in order munists. to prove his point, which I believe did Price per copy-10c

Left Winger Expelled from I. L. G. W. U.

Max Deitches, a member of Local 66 time ago purely as a punishment for of the International Garment Workers E. B. is an extremely dangerous step their fight against its bureaucratic meth- Union was expelled from the Executive and the membership should fight it tooth ods. Several of them came to discuss Board by the Right wingers on it and and nail. The E. B. has no authority

He was charged with the responsibility for a leastet written by the Left wing have the right to expel a member of the olutionary group here and of the Italian and distributed to the members of the E. B. who was elected by the members Union. The contents of the leaflet ex- they have the right to do anything. And have accepted the analysis of the Left pressed the sentiments of many members if we disagree, well, we will be told, com-Opposition on all important questions of of the Union who on numerous occasions plain to the Joint Board. have taken the floor and expressed similiar criticism.

the Union, defended and endorsed the Only Reisel, Fishman, and Joffe-all of expulsion stating that the contents of ficials-spoke in favor of the expulsion. the leastet were false.

The members were given no opportunity to approve or reject the action of the when it got to hot for him. The chair-Executive Board or to discuss the leaflet man has no right to terminate the discuswhich he was expelled.

Reisel who acted as chairman ruled that the membership had no power to fought against by every member who has reject the decision of the E. B. and that the interest of the Union at heart. We the Joint Board only had the power to must voice our protest. The responsibil- P. Convention. However, the two dele-

the constitution as I understand it. It B. and the officials who instigated and states very clearly that

"Any member of the I. L. G. W. U. feeling aggrieved at the decision of the Local Union shall have the right to appeal to the Joint Board." . . .

We would do well to pause for a moment and make clear the power and authority of our E. B. The officials of our Union and its E. B. are elected by stration in Union Park. Our whole ex- the membership and responsible to it. membership meetings is brought before the membership subject for its approval or rejection.

to expel any member without the consent of the membership, and only after the members of the Union are given an opportunity to investigate the charges made, and upon which the decision to expel was determined. If that is doneand it was not--and should the members approve the action taken by the E. B. then the complaintant has the right to appeal to the Joint Board.

The expulsion of Deitches from the to expel a member without the sanction of the membership. Certainly if they

It was interesting to note that not single rank and file member of the Union Reisel, Fishman and Joffe, officials of defended the action taken by the E. B.

The conduct of the chairman was inexcusable. He cut the discussion short in order to determine for themselves the sion without the consent of the membercharges made against Deitches and for ship, and this he never got he never asked for it.

The expulsion of Deitches should be ity for this new expulsion campaign lies This ruling is contrary to Section 17 of at the feet of those members of the E. supported the expulsion.

Those responsible will have to ans wer and bear the consequences. They have taken a dangerous and harmful step. Today they expel an E. B. member, tomorrow, they may expel a member of the Union.

Members of Local 66 on guard! Fight the expellers. Criticism must not be The E. B. is responsible to the member- stifled, we must refuse to be terrorized. ship and acts for it between meetings. Deitches was expelled because he was Any action taken by the E. B between a thorn in the side of those who have expelled him.

Rally to his defense. Demand his reinstatement. -HARRY MILTON.

The Depression Hits South Carolina

"A Smiling Providence"

the Communist party among the Italians around. The coast district or "Low of food for the ten hungry bodies already Militant Builders bannered with Spanish moss", and veil- crop." Thirteen new subs came in last week, ed with "dawn-mists"; its herons, hawks,

Dunne (6)--9; G. Duell (5); M. Lilly In constant, the mountains of the in- duced by a series of bad luck from com-(5); J. Sifakis (4)-2; L. Gleisser (4) and border of the state rise over a mile parative prosperity to such straits, the -2; L. Roseland (3 1-2)-5; M. Dunne high. Here is the last resort of a rem-(3)-8; L. Nagy (2 1-2)-3; C. Forsen nant of the Cherokees, driven out of their had to humble their pride and ask char-(2 1-2)-3; A. Buehler (2)-2; M. Rosen hunting grounds by the Anglo-Saxon in. ity. The oldest child has the highest (2)-2; O. Coover (2)-3; A. Ehrlich vaders who built their log cabins and grades ever made at her school but will (2)-1; S. Frank (1 1-2)--2; L. Basky set up schools for the study of Greek and have to stop unless some maintenance is (1 1-2)-5; T. Vaszily (1)-1; R. Ruskin Latin and theology while busy subduing provided for the family. Sixty dollars (1)-2; W. Curran (1)-2; S. Zalaman- "the wilderness". Last resort, too, of is needed". off (1)-1; P. Carlson (1)-1; C. Cowl spruce and fir, rattlesnake and wild tur-(1) -5; P. Schulman (1)-1; F. Barach key, fox, deer, and bear. Then too, last thing in the widow D's home for the five (1)-4; C. Johnson (1)-2; S. Lessin resort of the pure Anglo-Saxon descend. little D's to go to bed without any supper (1)-2; B. Houman (1); S. Gendelman ents, driven back into the hills by the as their mother comes home night after (1); N. Berman (1); G. R. Herman (1); plantation system of a former generation night with no results in her hunt for H. Ross (1); H. Milton (1-2)-1; T. and deliberately kept illiterate by the work. Anxiety and the lack of food for Drobny (1-2)-1; J. Carr (1-4)-3; C. aristocracy of the low-lands, thus pro- herself will ruin her health before times Skoglund-3; F. Cheloff-2; G. Ray-2; ducing the 'poor whites' of the present come if she is not given help. Sixty dol-

> the most part on brick or wood posts and with thirty dollars." having no cellars. Few houses in the poorer country sections are painted. The

Providence Still Smiles

Carolina during the depression has suffered no great or sudden catastrophe dapitalist exploitation and the class at the hands of Nature either of flood, carthquake, plague or drought. Providterrupted flow of convincing argument ence "still smiles". What then of the Forty dollars is essential." "human element"?

Let us examine some of the "Needy Cases'.

As long as the Jasksons had Mag they

flood: that politics is nothing but parlia- of the I. W. W. some of whom are for the Soviets.

The Minneapolis Branch considers it a question of great educational value for the parentheses inserted, from a leadto the workers of Minneapolis to arrange a debate with a representative of the the 'neediest' cases in the State capital. I W. W. in which both sides of the question of the American revolution can be discussed. We hereby issue the chal-

were farmers, though the drought (!) From the coast to the Appalachian and boll weevil (!) left nothing to show Rockies,-South Carolina is blessed with one day Mag laid her bones down fora pleasing climate in which in many ever in a barren field and ten pairs of places vegetables grow ten months in the questioning, illiterate eyes were left year and roses often bloom the year facing the world without even a prospect Country" is famous for its cypress fallen prey to pellagra, hook worm and swamps and lagoons, dense with water- epilepsy. Sixty dollars would take Mag's place in helping make a next year's

Drought, boll weevil, loss of mule il This brings the total of new subs since vultures, eagles; its swamp fish, deer, literacy, pellagra, hunger, hook worm, the opening of the drive is 216. Most and alligators; its gardens of azaleas, epilepsy! Pass the hat for the price of of these subs were sent in by our staff wistarias, and magnolias; its sea-island a mule,-a very poor mule it would be

Case 5. "An expectant mother hitched will at least have someting to eat. Re-F's, with no source of income left, have

Case 10. "It is getting to be a regular

Case 11. "An unbearably empty cotton raising. Originally covered with work to support his wife, little boy and pines forming a beautiful and extensive the new baby on the way, and he is now forest area, it is now well cut over and serving a term for theft. Further sufdotted with light-built houses raised for fering for his family could be avoided

Yield not to temptation.

Case 12. "When de lights in both James P. Thompson, the outstanding soil is rich in iodine but erodes very Uncle Tom's eyes were "put out" by polis at the Labor Lyceum, Sunday, May pine which has been ruthlessly cut down crippled with rheumalism that she could hardly move out of her chair, the de-Such is Carolina,-still the land of the voted old couple sat side by side cringing in deadly fear of having to go to the almshouse. Food would be assured by fifty dollars and this fear removed."

Case 13. "The gigantic task of supporting a family of five, the mother disabled and the father ill with pellagra, rests on the thin little shoulders of Jessie Mae, 16, whose jobs consists of a few day's work a week in the mill.

Case 18. "Working under a high powered light while making a living for his family cost Mr. G. his eyesight and left Case 1. "Hope died with the mule. Mrs. G. and the two children with no support. More trouble came when her brother, who lived with her, lost his job. She is a hard worker but can't always find enough to do to make ends meet. She could manage with twenty-five dol-

> These cases are copied exactly, except ing newspaper of the state and refer to You can see Hoover's point that a little more individualism would help these cases along.

Such was the situation last year during December. To a Russian school-boy Read Communism and Syndicalism by these stories would sound incredible, but he will think of when he hears America we are from even one half of our quota. called 'God's Country'.

The executive board has no authority The Minnesota Convention of the C. P.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

quarters at Minneapolis sent out a call O., Norman Bernick, Tom Foley, Bertha addressed to trade unions and other Wise and the chairman, whose name working class organizations in the State did not learn. This machine ran into of Minnesota to send delegates to a Con- more difficulty when the question of vention to be held in Minneapolis on selecting delegates to the party's Na May 15th, to ratify the Communist Party tional Nominating Convention at Chicago Ticket for the coming state election. The came up. The party machine had pick Minneapolis Branch of the Communist ed ten delegates with the provision that League of America (Opposition) first this same party machine could add more learned of the holding of the Conven- if deemed necessary. This slate of deletion when the call was read at one of gates was, like the rest of the program, the local trade unions where the writer simply tossed out to the organized hand was in attendance. The secretary of raisers amongst the delegates in order the local union merely mentioned the fact to leave the impression with honest and to the members present that there was unsuspecting workers present that the a call from the Communist party to send rank and file had something to say. delegates to their State Ratification Convention and the apparent intention was this method of choosing the Chicago to lay the communication on the table delegation and proposed that the delewithout any further action. I immediately raised the question that this communication was possibly one of the most important on the table and should not be laid aside but acted upon.

After some explanation on my part on the necessity and importance of every trade union to familiarize itself with, and support the building of a Communist organization and to muster the largest possible vote for its candidates, the union voted to send two delegates to the C. gates selected did not show up at the Convention and when the chairman read off the names of the delegates that were seated he did not mention one single trade union local that had a delegate seated. No name of any delegate was called off except those who were seated by the Party machine. The local Branch of the League sent two delegates and none of them were seated and their names were never even mentioned.

When we entered the hall we were requested by the door committee to sign our name and the organization we reto take a seat. Wm. Schneiderman, the fense of the resolutions dealing with leg- vention with the slogan of "Rank and form and the State and National Party gards union policies and tactics, critic- principle and task of the Left wing was group of renegades and stool pigeons mountains,—the greatest east of the for it. (And the price of cotton?) But skyites" in the grossest kind of contempt and to deal with them in a way very difficult to explain. which was fitting for workers in dealplause took place.

Thereafter, everything went smooth and nothing interfered with the operabaffled the Chairman momentarily and

The party steering committee appar Some time ago the official Party head-ently consisted of Wm. Scheiderman, D.

Several delegates present objected to gates to Chicago be nominated from the floor and that each delegate nominated should be voted on separately by the delegation present. This idea was severely criticized by the administration wheel horses and Norman Bernick contended this idea "was a wrong approach to the entire question."

Delegate Singer of the International Workers' Order led the fight for Contion. Schneidermann, after condemning tent that the ten delegates picked up by Minneapolis Convention. the machine stood and others could be nominated from the floor. Then after

nominations were closed each delegate to Chicago, including the ten, was to be voted on separately by the state delegation. One of the ten picked delegates withdrew and nominated another. This action left nine picked delegates. Six more delegates were nominated. Four withdrew, no doubt by previous instructions, and the other two were voted down automatically.

During the fight on the floor for a rank and file picked delegation, Schneiderman practically hurled the same denunciations and epithets at its proponents as he used against the "Trotskyites" and one person after being thus treated left the hall in disgust. Delegate Singer, after being similarly attacked, asked for the floor for a brief moment to answer the attack. His request for an opportunity to defend himself was met with a motion denying him the right to speak, which was carried automatically as all the other party proposals.

So, after all was said and done, after the broad and pretentions call sent out to the trade unions, after the small but sincere struggle in the Convention against the bureaucratic machine, the Minneapolis State Convention called by the Communist party was not able to add or detract one single iota from the entire pre-determined program of the party machine. The League delegates with their proposals of cooperation in the coming election campaign were vention election of the Chicago delega- ignored and instead vile names and abuse were heaped upon us to confuse the this idea moved its adoption with the workers present. It is the only way a knowledge, of course, that the party labor bureaucracy can maintain itself. machine had the majority of the dele- But as it functions it also builds up gates seated lined up and instructed. the forces for its own destruction and This plan was again modified to the ex- these forces were augumented in the

-BY A LEAGUE DELEGATE.

The I.L.G.W.U. Meets in Philadelphia

(Continued from page 1) archist-Lovestoneite Bloc played a mis- one. It contributed nothing. presented, after which we were permitted erable role. It confined itself to the de-D. O., was speaking on the Party Plat- alistic forms of administration. As reticket and wound up his talk in the ism of the class collaboration policy of to be subordinated to this slogan. And usual fashion of launching a bitter at- the leadership and representation of the when it came to the test on the floor of tack on the "small and insignificant demand of the broad masses of the mem- the convention, this slogan proved its bership for a militant program and for fallacy and was the cause of confusion who try to classify themselves as Com- militant action, this pseudo-progressive and undeserved discreditment for the munists, the Trotskyites." He urged outfit did not show anything by which it Left wing. the workers present to hold the "Trot- could be distinguished from the Right wing clique. The reason for this is not ship" was raised by the Left delegation

The Anarchists who, in their support the Convention calling for a cloukmaking with counter-revolutionary renegades, of Sigman against the Left wing proved ers' strike this coming June. The Lefts and stool pigeons. After this outburst, to be no less reactionary than the Schles- insisted on the consideration of their which was the climax of the District Or- inger clique, found themselves to a pecu- recommendation of a "Rank and File ganizer's talk, the usual organized ap- liar position. All their attempts at pos- Leadership" for the strike, and failing ing as progressives were of no avail. in this, four of them voted against the They were not taken seriously.

tion of the party machine until the toward both cliques. . They had to atone would not count so much against them writer obtained the floor for the purpose for their former sins against both. Their as the confusion and the misrepresenof asking the party leadership how we, position was rather comical. It was mani- tation it caused in the minds of the as delegates from the Communist League fested in their support of the resolution workers with regard to the program of could cooperate with the party in getting regarding the Soviet Union. They swall the Left wing. the most political benefit out of the lowed the resolution hook, line and sink- It is totally false to put the condielection campaign for the Communist er. Obviously, with the intention of tion of a "Rank and File Leadership" to movement, its program and candidates? pleasing their brothers-in-arms, the An- the support of a strike. It is but one of I told them of my expulsion from the archists. On the question of the recog- the absurd contradictions flowing from party after giving it my wholehearted nition of Zimmerman's rights to office such false slogans. Communists cannot support for five years in money and party on the Executive Board of his local, his withhold support of a strike even if it work and I wanted to know how we could sole support came from Dubinsky, who is under a reformist leadership. Their cooperate on the things we can agree on jointly with the Anarchists administer- duty is to continue the fight for a miliand that we stood for the unification of ed him a whipping for his sins of the tant, Left wing leadership in strikes and the Communist movement around a cor- past and a warning for the future. A out of strikes. This is the only way to rect program. My proposition evidently ritual entirely becoming for a capitulator, expose the reformists and to gain pres-

There remained at the Convention the tige for themselves. The Lefts at the he simply glanced in the direction of delegation of the "Left Groups" guided Convention committed an unpardonable Schneiderman who responded promptly by the Industrial Union. This group blunder for which the Stalinist leaderand bravely by stating something to the was represented only by seven delegates ship is responsible. effect that "no smooth or suave talk" and consequently, played no great role could cover up our character as "coun- at the Convention. It could not, beter revolutionaries and stool pigeons who sides, be expected, due to the prevailcooperate with the police to break up ing hostility, to fully develop its protions". He further ruled that there the Left wing. But even in such a sitwould be no more discussion on my pro- nation, the Left delegation could have position and ordered the Chairman to made itself felt, provided it had a platproceed with the regular order of busi- form for the convention. But unfortunately, it has none, and its part at the

Convention was therefore, a negative

The Left delegation came to the con-File Leaership" as its program. Every

The slogan of "Rank and File Leaderin connection with a recommendation to strike. They were condemned by the The Lovestoneites felt their obligations entire Convention. This condemnation

The Tasks of the Left Wing

We wish to reiterate our proposals made to the Left wing before the Convention for the raising of the slogan of Communist meetings and demonstra- gram, to give adequate representation to unity of the I. L. G. W. U. and the Industrial Union at the Convention. We proposed to demand the readmission of the Industrial Union as a body into and without discrimination. We proposed this on the basis of the pressing need for unity and the demand for it. Such a slogan would immensely strenggthen the Left wing and its prestige with the International. We also proposed a united front with the prowhat it should be. It is necessary to And a sustained effort to do so. Now gressive elements, led by the Anarchsay so right out to make every member for the final week of the drive let every ist-Lovestone bloc, for common struggle against the Schlesinger machine. We proposed this as a tactic. We said that we have no confidence in the leaders of the "Progressive Bloc", but we look upon its existence and its influence as a proof of the radical sentiments of the workers. The united front with the "Progressive Bloc" would bring the Left wing closer to the workers and prove to them the insincerity of the "Progressives" and the militancy of the Left wing. The Left wing could only gain by such a

> The Lefts at the Convention did not adopt our proposals. They failed with late to test our correct tactics of a united front and of the slogan of unity. The time for it is no less opportune now than

-ALBERT ORLAND.

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Put the Press Drive Over the Top!

The final month of the drive is not; sary is the determination to reach it. of the League and every one of its sym- one pitch in with all he has. Let every pathizers realize that our statement that the life of the weekly MILITIANT depends on the success of the press drive cudgel his memory to think of every one is not an exaggeration. This drive must be ever heard say a word of agreement be made a success.

date tells the story:

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It can be seen from the above how far Now this quota is by no means beyond -GUY SOUTHWORTH. our ability to reach. All that is neces-

\$ 1,000 \$ 152.00

comrade, reader, sympathizer and friend with the ideas of the Left Opposition and A glance at the quotas and results to a word of sympathy for our strugglelet him take our front page appeal and go to him for help.

If we are to reach our quota-and we must-we need immediate help. We need donations. At the affairs which our branches have aranged for this week collections must be made. Pledges must be the Stalinist tactics. It is not yet too taken. Plans for raising money must be worked out.

Remember that the life of the weekly it was before. MILITANT is in danger, SAVE IT!