

LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

Among the Italian Workers in Chicago

In Chicago the leading Italian comrades were expelled from the party some time ago purely as a punishment for their fight against its bureaucratic methods.

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.

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.

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 Demonstration in Union Park.

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.

—JOE.

Militant Builders

Thirteen new subs came in last week. This brings the total of new subs since the opening of the drive is 216. Most of these subs were sent in by our staff of Militant Builders.

Minneapolis Branch Challenges Wobblies

James P. Thompson, the outstanding orator of the I. W. W. spoke in Minneapolis at the Labor Lyceum, Sunday, May 15th to an audience, the size of which strikingly attested to the precipitous decline in influence of that organization.

In answer to questions on the subject, he sententiously asserted the argument advanced by the anarchists before the flood: that politics is nothing but parliamentarism, and that the I. W. W. when the working class seizes power, "will do everything necessary, to maintain power, even with a Red Army."

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

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Max Deitch, a member of Local 66 of the International Garment Workers Union was expelled from the Executive Board by the Right wingers on it and with the support of the union officials.

He was charged with the responsibility for a leaflet written by the Left wing and distributed to the members of the Union. The contents of the leaflet expressed the sentiments of many members of the Union who on numerous occasions have taken the floor and expressed similar criticisms.

Reisel, Fishman and Joffe, officials of the Union, defended and endorsed the expulsion stating that the contents of the leaflet were false.

The members were given no opportunity to approve or reject the action of the Executive Board or to discuss the leaflet in order to determine for themselves the charges made against Deitch and for which he was expelled.

Reisel who acted as chairman ruled that the membership had no power to reject the decision of the E. B. and that the Joint Board only had the power to do so.

This ruling is contrary to Section 17 of the constitution as I understand it. It 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 the membership and responsible to it. The E. B. is responsible to the membership and acts for it between meetings.

Members of Local 66 on guard! Fight the expellers. Criticism must not be stifled, we must refuse to be terrorized. Deitch was expelled because he was 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"

From the coast to the Appalachian mountains,—the greatest east of the Rockies,—South Carolina is blessed with a pleasing climate in which in many places vegetables grow ten months in the year and roses often bloom the year around.

In constant, the mountains of the inland border of the state rise over a mile high. Here is the last resort of a remnant of the Cherokees, driven out of their hunting grounds by the Anglo-Saxon invaders who built their log cabins and set up schools for the study of Greek and Latin and theology while busy subduing "the wilderness".

Between these two extremes of low-land and high-land lies the major part of the state, devoted to cotton mills and cotton raising. Originally covered with pines forming a beautiful and extensive forest area, it is now well cut over and dotted with light-built houses raised for the most part on brick or wood posts and having no cellars.

Carolina during the depression has suffered no great or sudden catastrophe at the hands of Nature either of flood, earthquake, plague or drought. Providence "still smiles". What then of the "human element"?

Let us examine some of the "Needy Cases".

Case 1. "Hope died with the mule. As long as the Jasksons had Mag they not sit well even with the sympathizers of the I. W. W. some of whom are for the Soviets.

The Minneapolis Branch considers it a question of great educational value to the workers of Minneapolis to arrange a debate with a representative of the I. W. W. in which both sides of the question of the American revolution can be discussed. We hereby issue the challenge. —C.

Read Communism and Syndicalism by Leon Trotsky for a clarification of the differences between I. W. W. and Communism. Price per copy—10c

The executive board has no authority 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.

The expulsion of Deitch from the E. B. is an extremely dangerous step and the membership should fight it tooth and nail. The E. B. has no authority to expel a member without the sanction of the membership.

It was interesting to note that not a single rank and file member of the Union defended the action taken by the E. B. Only Reisel, Fishman, and Joffe—all officials—spoke in favor of the expulsion.

The conduct of the chairman was inexcusable. He cut the discussion short when it got to hot for him. The chairman has no right to terminate the discussion without the consent of the membership, and this he never got he never asked for it.

The expulsion of Deitch should be fought against by every member who has the interest of the Union at heart. We must voice our protest. The responsibility for this new expulsion campaign lies at the feet of those members of the E. B. and the officials who instigated and supported the expulsion.

Those responsible will have to answer 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.

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were farmers, though the drought (!) and boll weevil (!) left nothing to show for it. (And the price of cotton?) But one day Mag laid her bones down forever in a barren field and ten pairs of questioning, illiterate eyes were left facing the world without even a prospect of food for the ten hungry bodies already fallen prey to pellagra, hook worm and epilepsy.

Case 5. "An expectant mother hitched to a plow guided by a seventy-year-old, paralyzed father slowly plods a rough garden so that the other six children will at least have something to eat.

Case 10. "It is getting to be a regular thing in the widow D's home for the five little D's to go to bed without any supper as their mother comes home night after night with no results in her hunt for work. Anxiety and the lack of food for herself will ruin her health before times come if she is not given help. Sixty dollars."

Case 11. "An unbearably empty stomach forced Mr. X to yield to temptation while away from home searching for work to support his wife, little boy and the new baby on the way, and he is now serving a term for theft. Further suffering for his family could be avoided with thirty dollars."

Case 12. "When de lights in both Uncle Tom's eyes were 'put out' by cataracts and Aunt Sally became so crippled with rheumatism that she could hardly move out of her chair, the devoted 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 Jessip Mae, 16, whose job consists of a few days work a week in the mill. Forty dollars is essential."

Case 18. "Working under a high powered light while making a living for his family cost Mr. G. his eyesight and left 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 dollars."

These cases are copied exactly, except for the parentheses inserted, from a leading newspaper of the state and refer to the 'neediest' cases in the State capital. 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 these stories would sound incredible, but when he learns about it, that is, what he will think of when he hears America called 'God's Country'. —GUY SOUTHWORTH.

The Minnesota Convention of the C. P.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Some time ago the official Party headquarters at Minneapolis sent out a call addressed to trade unions and other working class organizations in the State of Minnesota to send delegates to a Convention to be held in Minneapolis on May 15th, to ratify the Communist Party Ticket for the coming state election.

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. P. Convention.

When we entered the hall we were requested by the door committee to sign our name and the organization we represented, after which we were permitted to take a seat. Wm. Schneiderman, the D. O., was speaking on the Party Platform and the State and National Party ticket and wound up his talk in the usual fashion of launching a bitter attack on the "small and insignificant group of renegades and stool pigeons who try to classify themselves as Communists, the Trotskyites."

Thereafter, everything went smooth and nothing interfered with the operation of the party machine until the writer obtained the floor for the purpose of asking the party leadership how we, as delegates from the Communist League could cooperate with the party in getting the most political benefit out of the election campaign for the Communist movement, its program and candidates?

I told them of my expulsion from the party after giving it my wholehearted support for five years in money and party work and I wanted to know how we could cooperate on the things we can agree on and that we stood for the unification of the Communist movement around a correct program. My proposition evidently baffled the Chairman momentarily and he simply glanced in the direction of Schneiderman who responded promptly and bravely by stating something to the effect that "no smooth or suave talk" could cover up our character as "counter revolutionaries and stool pigeons who cooperate with the police to break up Communist meetings and demonstrations."

Put the Press Drive Over the Top!

The final month of the drive is not what it should be. It is necessary to say so right out to make every member of the League and every one of its sympathizers realize that our statement that the life of the weekly MILITANT depends on the success of the press drive is not an exaggeration.

A glance at the quotas and results to date tells the story:

Table with 3 columns: Location, Quotas, Results. Total Quotas: \$1,000. Total Results: \$152.00.

It can be seen from the above how far we are from even one half of our quota. Now this quota is by no means beyond our ability to reach. All that is neces-

The party steering committee apparently consisted of Wm. Schneiderman, D. O., Norman Bernick, Tom Foley, Bertha Wise and the chairman, whose name I did not learn. This machine ran into more difficulty when the question of selecting delegates to the party's National Nominating Convention at Chicago came up.

Several delegates present objected to this method of choosing the Chicago delegation and proposed that the delegates to Chicago be nominated from the floor and that each delegate nominated should be voted on separately by the delegation present.

Delegate Singer of the International Workers' Order led the fight for Convention election of the Chicago delegation. Schneiderman, after condemning this idea moved its adoption with the knowledge, of course, that the party machine had the majority of the delegates seated lined up and instructed.

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

(Continued from page 1) archist-Lovestonite Bloc played a miserable role. It confined itself to the defense of the resolutions dealing with legalistic forms of administration. As regards union policies and tactics, criticism of the class collaboration policy of the leadership and representation of the demand of the broad masses of the membership for a militant program and for militant action, this pseudo-progressive outfit did not show anything by which it could be distinguished from the Right wing clique.

The Lovestonites felt their obligations toward both cliques. They had to atone for their former sins against both. Their position was rather comical. It was manifested in their support of the resolution regarding the Soviet Union. They swallowed the resolution hook, line and sinker. Obviously, with the intention of pleasing their brothers-in-arms, the Anarchists.

There remained at the Convention the delegation of the "Left Groups" guided by the Industrial Union. This group was represented only by seven delegates and consequently, played no great role at the Convention. It could not, besides, be expected, due to the prevailing hostility, to fully develop its program, to give adequate representation to the Left wing. But even in such a situation, the Left delegation could have made itself felt, provided it had a platform for the convention. But unfortunately, it has none, and its part at the

It is totally false to put the condition of a "Rank and File Leadership" to the support of a strike. It is but one of the absurd contradictions flowing from such false slogans. Communists cannot withhold support of a strike even if it is under a reformist leadership. Their duty is to continue the fight for a militant, Left wing leadership in strikes and out of strikes. This is the only way to expose the reformists and to gain prestige for themselves. The Lefts at the Convention committed an unpardonable blunder for which the Stalinist leadership is responsible.

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 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 strengthen the Left wing and its prestige with the International. We also proposed a united front with the progressive elements, led by the Anarchist-Lovestonite bloc, for common struggle against the Schlesinger machine.

If we are to reach our quota—and we must—we need immediate help. We need donations. At the affairs which our branches have arranged for this week collections must be made. Pledges must be worked out.

Remember that the life of the weekly MILITANT is in danger, SAVE IT!

—ALBERT ORLAND.

Get a Sub!

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.

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