

LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

Street Car Men Facing Strike in St. Louis

More than six months ago, when the carmen of the St. Louis Public Service Company decided to go on strike against the proposed ten per cent wage-cut they were persuaded by their leaders to submit to arbitration...

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that Stanley Clarke, large stockholder and spokesman for the street car company is a "liberal". He has organized and financed the World Theatre in St. Louis...

Lo, and Behold! No sooner had the street-car company obtained its first demand for a wage-cut than, like a ravenous wolf in its insatiable greed for profits, it returns for another ten per cent wage reduction...

If the strike takes place now as per schedule on May 31, we prophesy that it will be a bitter struggle. The two wage-cuts, one almost immediately following on the other; the one-man car system which has suddenly thrown hundreds into the ranks of the unemployed...

The workers in general, organized and unorganized, feel that the outcome of the street-car-men's strike is the key to the outcome of labor struggles in general here. The street transportation company is one of the largest, if not the largest industry...

At the very outset, before anything has been definitely decided, the street-car company has arrogantly hinted at plans to furnish "service", so that the dear public will not in any way be inconvenienced...

Nor is this the only way by which the company hopes to break the strike. Indeed, if it were, it would prove wholly inadequate. The reactionary "Globe-Democrat" which never fails to come to the front when the interests of big capital are at stake...

Treachery and double-dealing on the part of their leaders has not weakened the morale of the carmen, and particularly their most militant section has, on the contrary, been strengthened by it. The street car strike could give rise to a whole series of struggles in the ranks of labor in St. Louis...

-G. ROBERTS.

From Negro Comrades in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA.

The letter which we are printing below we have received from a group of Negro comrades in Johannesburg, South Africa. This is the first contact we have had with them and we are, therefore, not able to say anything as yet about the history and development of this group...

"At our last meeting, held on April 22, 1932, all the undersigned Negro comrades decided to apply for membership in your league. In regard to your appeal for literature agents it was agreed that we request you to send us 8 dozen copies of The Militant per week...

"The undersigned Negro comrades pledge themselves to accept your instructions and to see that they are carried out, for the building of the revolutionary movement...

Mr. Seabury «Exposes» Tammany-Walker

(Continued from page 1) statements on the subject. However, we are led to believe, through knowledge of his connections, that Ungeler was a just a little concerned over the fate of the securities of the Parmelee Taxi Cab Corporation.

A veritable furor of genuine indignation was stirred up over Walker receiving money he never worked for. Paul Block, newspaper publisher and "salesman" of titles to the city subway contractors, started a joint brokerage account with the mayor, from which Jimmy received \$246,692, between February 1927 and August 1929...

What a farce these bootblacks of the capitalist class, reformers and corrupts alike, make of the tragic lot of the working class under capitalism. Investment of money is considered hard honest labor, but profits and dividends where no investment is made, is branded as ill-begotten lucre.

We have no reason to and we are not undertaking the defense of Jimmy Walker. We will leave that to the apologists of Capitalism, of which he is a typical product. The point is, however, that to us it is irrelevant as to how the master class divides, its profits derived from the blood and bones of the toiling masses. Does it make a particle of difference to the working class whether Mr. Block and his ilk squander their profits for their purposes or divide it among their political henchmen and state servants...

The liberals, the preachers, and the

tions and to see that they are carried out, for the building of the revolutionary movement, for the complete overthrow of capitalism for the establishment of Communism in Africa.

"We are": (Signatures of the comrades follow)

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

- DRAFT PROGRAM OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL A Criticism of Fundamentals* Part 1 and 3 140 pages. (Out of Print in paper cover) cloth bound \$1.00 THE PERMANENT REVOLUTION 158 pages paper cover 50c cloth cover \$1.00 STRATEGY OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION* Part 2 of the Draft Program 86 pages 25c PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE U. S. S. R.* 48 pages paper cover 15c THE SPANISH REVOLUTION* 30 pages paper cover 10c THE SPANISH REVOLUTION IN DANGER* 64 pages paper cover 15c COMMUNISM AND SYNDICALISM* 64 pages paper cover 15c THE TURN IN THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AND THE GERMAN SITUATION* (out of print) 10c WORLD UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE FIVE YEAR PLAN* 48 pages paper cover 10c GERMANY - THE KEY TO THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION* -SHALL FASCISM REALLY BE VICTORIOUS? 48 pages paper cover 10c HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION-Vol. 1 522 pages Retail at \$4 By Special arrangements with the publishers of this book we can offer it to certificate holders at \$3 THE REAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA 364 pages cloth cover \$1.00 SINCE LENIN DIED by Max Eastman 158 pages paper cover 50c (out of print) In Preparation PROBLEMS OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION 400 pages cloth cover \$1.50 paper cover 1.00 WHAT NEXT?-VITAL QUESTIONS FOR THE GERMAN PROLETARIAT 200 pages paper cover 50c Bound Volume of all the pamphlets indicated by * Only 100 copies available. Cloth cover \$2.00 SPECIAL RATES IN BUNDLE ORDERS PIONEER PUBLISHERS 84 East 10th Street, New York, N. Y.

socialist party are out in full force, raising the hue and cry of "driving the rascals out" and changing the present administration "for clean, honest and efficient government". The workers can have nothing to do with this kind of tripe. First, because corruption is inherent in the capitalist system and will not be eliminated until the whole decadent mechanism of this system, in all its ramifications is abolished...

-CLARKE.

Highlights of Socialist National Convention A Report of the Reformist Meet in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Anyone who wanted final and conclusive proof of the utter hopelessness of the socialist party as a party of the working class would have done well to attend the socialist convention in Milwaukee. There, he could get proof in great abundance. It was an assemblage of well dressed, well groomed and well fed shop keepers, doctors and lawyers, from which the working class could expect little—least of all "Socialism in our time".

It is not that radical phrases were lacking; on the contrary, phrases were thrown around quite profusely. Nor was it that peace and harmony prevailed in the discussion and adoption of rank opportunist policies; the members of the various factions were constantly hurling eloquent orations against each other. But in spite of this and in spite of the presence of the "Militants" who had issued quite a "radical" program before the convention, the socialist party emerged from this convention the same old party as it had been in the past—a party which has turned its back on revolutionary Marxism and had therefore become a party that does not and cannot represent the interests of the working class.

Policy on Soviet Union But this convention did find it necessary to adopt certain measures that would save its face before the awakening working class on the one hand and the section of belligerent party members on the other. Hence the adoption of a resolution on the Soviet Union. After the existence of the U. S. for some 14 years during which time the S. P. had never lost an opportunity of slandering it in the most vicious manner, this convention suddenly adopted a resolution calling for the recognition of the U. S. S. R. But their demand for recognition was so coupled with other demands and policies that it adds very little credit to the S. P. The resolution also calls for the release of "political prisoners" (they mean the counter-revolutionary mensheviks) and the freedom of press and agitation for socialists. Even this reactionary resolution met with the resistance of the Hillquit Right wing. But for the "Militants" also the understanding remained that the Monroe Doctrine was to remain for Russia—that is the revolution may have been all right for barbaric Russia but in America the transition towards Socialism would be accomplished by respectable democratic means.

One of the highlights of the convention was the fiery discussion over an amendment made by Busick of California that the word "confiscate" be substituted for the word "transfer" in the clause pertaining to the passing of the "principal industries of the country to social ownership". This amendment was greeted by with stormy applause particularly from the galleries. But the right wing lost no time in squelching the "hot-heads". All the big guns of the S. P., including Thomas, Hillquit and others discharged their best oratorical missiles in an attempt to defeat this. The arguments were quite typical. The insertion of the word confiscate would certainly not get the vote of the "average citizen who would be afraid of the confiscation of his car, his home and his savings"—the average citizen! Many other gems were presented against the idea of confiscation. The final remark of the embittered Busick did not go far off the mark when he shouted that those who were so much opposed to confiscation took that stand because they themselves had much to lose by confiscation. The vote showed a majority against confiscation.

Fight over National Chairman The really big fight at the convention was over a matter which involved no principle but around which a principle later developed. This was the time when a split was much talked about by both factions. It was the election of the Party chairman which created this situation. The delegates of the West and middle West had determined to defeat Hillquit and elect one who would build up a real "American Socialist Party" as the nominator of Mayor Hoan put it. The fight that followed lasted a whole afternoon. The followers of Hillquit took immediate issue with the backers of Hoan over the question of the "real American Party". They counterposed Hillquit to Hoan as the Marxian international socialist versus the national

Socialist. A sense of humor was essential in such a situation. After spending all their oratory, the vote was taken and Hillquit, the "international socialist" emerged the victor, though his majority was not big enough to his liking.

The old stand of the S. P. on the League of Nations was reiterated. The S. P. still regards the League of Nations as an instrument of peace and goodwill. Similarly the past stand of the S. P. on its Trade Union policy was reiterated. This means continued betrayals and support of betrayals.

Comic Incident on Floor Humorous episodes were not lacking at this convention. Indeed one has to stop and choose the best ones to recount. But perhaps the funniest sight was that of the socialist Sheriff of Milwaukee—Benson awaiting the fact that the Communists are interfering with the execution of his civic duties in case of evictions, by organizing demonstrations in front of the houses where the evictions were to take place. His lament seemed to meet with much sympathy from the assembled delegates. Later in the day, Mrs. Sheriff Benson graciously invited all the ladies present to come and inspect the socialist jail. It is in this jail that many of our comrades have spent weeks and months for their class struggle activity. It is in the same jail that the writer of this report spent five days for the heinous crime of distributing a leaflet before a shop. And the ladies present after displaying mock shivers of horror went to inspect the triumphs of socialism in jail.

As to the "Militants", they cut a most sorry figure at the convention. Having no consistent revolutionary policy to fight for, they made a feeble stand here and there but vacillated and temporized most of the way and thus revealed themselves in all their impotence. The class opportunism that triumphed, proved beyond all doubt that the S. P. can as much be reformed into a revolutionary party as the proverbial sow's ear can be turned into a silk purse. Whether this fact is clear to the "Militants" is very doubtful.

The adoption of quite a "radical" election platform by the S. P. places a greater obstacle in the way of the Communist party. Indeed the fact that the S. P. adopted such demands as the 6 hour day and 5 day week whereas the C. P. still clings to the 7 hour day slogan as well as the fact that the C. P. failed to connect its 6 cardinal immediate demands with the ultimate aim of the overthrow of capitalism and establishment of Socialism, will tend to confuse the American worker, and render his choice of the

The Party's Nominating Convention

(Continued from page 1) In several state and city nominating conventions held by the party, to which the Left Opposition sent its delegates to support the Communist election campaign, this support was scornfully rejected by the bureaucrats in control. The glibly proclaimed united front has become a farce by that fact alone. But nevertheless it will not succeed in preventing the Left Opposition from taking its part in the election campaign, modest though, as that will be through force of circumstances. We will do all in our power, to utilize the opportunities which an election campaign offers, to advance the ideas of Communism.

CHICAGO DEBATE On Sunday, June 12, at 8:00 P. M. at 3036 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, the Left Opposition youth comrades will debate the Young Peoples' Socialist League of that city. Comrades Nathan Gould and Norman Satir will take the negative of the question: Can the Socialist party play a revolutionary role in America. S. Larks and G. Suerka will support the affirmative.

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE MILITANT FOR SALE

Only six bound volumes of The Militant are left. Comrades who want this indispensable, historical record should hurry with their orders. Orders are being filled in the order in which they are being received. In each case a check or money order must accompany the order. The bound volumes include the seventy one issue from Volume 1, Number 1 to the last issue of the old format, Volume 4, Number 12, June 15, 1931. We have on hand a number of incomplete files, unbound. We are waiting for comrades to send in the missing numbers to bind them. What we need most are the following issues: Volume 1, Number 1, and Volume 2, Number 4. Upon receipt of these issues we will be able to make up a number of additional files and offer them for sale.

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real working class party quite difficult in the coming elections. There is much that the Left Opposition can do to help the American working class make the proper choice.

MILITANT BUILDERS

With the close of the drive we are able to give the names of the comrades who won the prizes we announced in the May 7th issue of The Militant. No one has qualified for the History of the Russian Revolution offered to the comrades, who during the final months of the drive raised \$15 in subs and donations.

Only one comrade qualified for the copy of What Next? offered to each comrade who fell short of \$15 but raised \$10. This is comrade Sacharow of Chicago. Just as soon as the book is off the press comrade Sacharow will receive her copy. To the comrade who brought in the largest number of subs during the period of the entire drive we offered a bound volume of The Militant. This goes to comrade Hedlund of Minneapolis. We also offered a copy of comrade Trotsky's Problems of the Chinese Revolution to the comrade who brought in the second largest number of subs during the drive. This goes to comrade Sacharow of Chicago. She will get her copies as soon as it comes from the binder.

To all the comrades and to all our readers and sympathizers who worked for the maintenance of our press we want to express our gratification at the way they came to the support of their press. But we are not yet out of the woods. The situation is still critical. We must continue our efforts to get subs and donations. There must be no let up.

As announced elsewhere in this issue we have bound nine of the recent pamphlets of comrade Trotsky into volumes. We have put aside 10 of these bound volumes. We offer them as premiums to the comrades who from June 1 on, raise \$10 in subs and donations. Our records begin with every sub and donation received on June 1. The record so far follows: The figures quoted are in dollars.

- M. Koehler 3 A. Basky 2 1-2 M. Basin 2 P. Vomas 2 J. Elchma 2 T. Halligan 1-4

The record by cities is as follows: Pittsburgh 4 Youngstown 3 New York 2 3-4 Philadelphia 2

NEW YORK MEETINGS The New York branch of the Communist League of America (Opposition) has been conducting street meetings for several weeks now as a part of its general summer activities. On several corners in the Bronx and Manhattan our meeting have met with considerable success. The next meetings will be held on 125th Street and 5th Ave., on Thursday and Saturday nights. In the Bronx on 165th Street and Prospect Ave. on the same nights. All workers are urged to attend.

Pioneer Publishers Notes

Our annual inventory reveals some interesting things about our literature. We are completely out of The Draft Program in the paper cover edition and have only nineteen copies left in the cloth cover. A word to the wise is sufficient. No one has to be agitated about the importance of this fundamental document. We expect that these nineteen copies will be sold before the week is out. Another historic document has run out of print. This one is Max Eastman's Since Lenin Died. Only four copies of this work are left. The inventory unexpectedly showed that we have about ten copies on hand of The Turn in the C. I. and the Situation in Germany. This is a rare opportunity for a few comrades and readers to get a copy of this searching analysis of the Comintern's mistakes under Stalin leadership in the German question.

Another fact which our inventory established is that our supply of the new pamphlet on Germany, The Key to the International Situation, is running low. It would be well for all our propagandists to lay in a supply for future distribution. With the swift pace of the developing revolution in Germany interest in it and in comrade Trotsky's writings on it are continually increasing. Another historic document is rapidly running out of print. There are only forty-six copies left of The Real Situation in Russia. As almost everyone knows The Real Situation in Russia contains the Platform of the Russian Opposition, Lenin's Testament, and A. Joffe's letter to comrade Trotsky in which he explains why and how the Stalinist bureaucracy drove him to take his life.

The book on China is progressing and should be ready for shipment within ten days. Work is also going on on What Next? extracts from which are appearing in The Militant. We would like our readers and sympathizers to send us the names and addresses of stores which they think will carry and can sell our literature. Upon receipt of this information we will undertake to sell them through the mail. Our comrades should also make efforts to place our literature in the public libraries. It has been our experience in Cleveland, St. Louis, Youngstown and elsewhere that the libraries are willing to buy our literature. By this arrangement we can place our literature at the disposal of workers unable to buy it.

The Results of Our Press Drive

	Quotas	Results
New York	\$ 325	\$ 140.75
Minneapolis	200	40
Chicago	100	44.70
Toronto	70	1.05
Cleveland	40	9
Philadelphia	40	5
Boston	40	5
Newark	35	7.25
Kansas City	30	2.00
St. Louis	25	5
Los Angeles	20	6
Youngstown	10	8.25
New Haven	10	6
Montreal	10	
Duluth	10	
Springfield, Ill.	10	
W. Frankfort, Ill.	10	
Pittsburgh	10	10
Trenton	5	
Miscellaneous		5.50
Total	\$ 1,000	\$ 290.50

Pittsburgh was the only city to reach its quota. Youngstown came close. From the way it is sending in subs and donations it will pass its quota by this time next week. A number of branches which have made no returns yet will have every opportunity to do so. It is true that the drive is over. But the need for financial help is still great. The critical situation has not been abated by a hair's breadth. Bills continue to pour in on us from all directions. Our creditors are more importunate than ever. Our need for money is no less than last week or the week before. Every effort must still be made to get subs and donations. Returns are still coming in. This makes our totals above only tentative. Next week we will give the final figures. This gives every comrade a chance to give the result for his city a boost. Comrades, let us make one more determined effort to save our weekly Militant.