LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

Street Carmen Facing Strike in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, MO.

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. The deciding vote in this arbitration rested with the "impartial" captalist politican, President of the Board of Alderman, Neun. The result was to be foreseen. After the bluff of of the fact that the ideas of the Left "examining" the claims of both sides, he decided in favor of the street car company. Capitalist politicians do not receive the campaign funds and the graft which always goes with an important political position, for nothing.

Incidentially, it may be mentioned that Stanley Clarke, large stock-holder and spokesman for the street car company is a "liberal". He has organized and financed the World Theatre in St. Louis which has already in its short life presented two important Russian films, "The Road to Life" and the "Five Year Plan". Hence, it appears that Stanley Clarke believes that a revolution and planned socialist economy are good things -in Russia. In St. Louis, however, wage-cuts and private monopoly as opposed to workers' state monopoly are on the order of the day.

Lo, and Behold! No sooner has 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 percent wage reduction. The men were not to be so easily fooled this time. This time the "social justice" (!) commission was proposed. One of these social justice commissions composed of supposed liberal ministers and rabbis was created to settle the dispute between the milk wagon drivers and the bosses. These respectable and well-fed sycophants promptly decided in favor of the bosses.

If the strike takes place now as per schedule on May 31, we prophesy that it will be a bitter struggle. The two wagecuts, one almost immediately following on the other; the one-man car system which has suddenly thrown hundreds into the ranks of the unemployed right ing joining your league. Although it is at the height of an ever deepening econof unemployment relief in their own on white militants will follow our lead. ranks-all this has produced no small The color question makes organization ation to struggle among the men. If being considered inferior even on such the labor-fakers, whereby the strike may be averted, and the men betrayed, they will be used.

The workers in general, organized and unorganized, feel that the outcome of the street-carmen's strike is the key to the outcome of labor struggles in generpany is one of the largest, if not the largest industry. If the basses are such largest industry. If the basses are such largest industry. largest industry. If the bosses are successful in increasing their profits by a wholesale reduction of the standard of statements on the subject. However, raising the hue and cry of "driving the living of the workers in the industry, other industries, taking this cue, will of his connections, that Ungerleider was administration "for clean, honest and naturally adopt the same course. While a just a little concerned over the fate efficient government". The workers can it is always the case that a systematic. of the securities of the Parmelee Taxi | have nothing to do with this kind of general determination to cut wages is Cab Corporation. initiated first in one large industry, it | A veritable furor of genuine indignais so apparent here now, that even the tion was stirred up over Walker receivmost uninitiated are keenly alive to it. ing money he never worked for. Paul Hence, not a little support is promised Block, newspaper publisher and "salesthe street-carmen in advance.

At the very outset, before anything tractors, started a joint brokerage achas been definitely decided, the street count with the mayor, from which Jimmy car company has arrogantly hinted at received \$246,692, between February 1927 plans to furnish "service", so that the and August 1929. And the mayor never dear public will not in any way be incon- invested a cent in this venture. Why venienced. One of these methods of that's real exploitation! Just think of service are the busses which are owned the poor hard-working Mr. Block who by the Public Service Company. Two had to clip all the coupons by himself, years ago, when the bus drivers struck the mayor not contributing a stitch of rectly speaks up "that such an inquisiand won the right to organize, they were his own "labor" and then receiving over tion is more worthy of Russia than of signed up on a conract which expires \$200,000. one year after the street-carmen's contract. This, of course, was pertetrated, capitalist class, reformers and corrupthrough the clever manipulation of the tions alike, make of the tragic lot of the boss-owned labor fakers. The present working class under capitalism. Investsituation was to be inferred from the ment of money is considered hard honest trend of the economic depression at that labor, but profits and dividends where no time, and was hailed a distinct victory for the bosses.

Nor is this the only way by which the company hopes to break the strike. In- undertaking the defense of Jimmy Walkdeed, if it were, it would prove wholly er. We will leave that to the apologists the workers can have no interest) it is took immediate issue with the backers inadequate. The reactionary "Globe- of Capitalism, of which he is a typical Democrat" which never fails to come to product. The point is, however, that to the front when the interests of big capital are at stake, has printed a whole class divides, its profits derived from the series of editorials reminding the men blood and bones of the toiling masses. that these are hard times and that there Does it make a particle of difference to are thousands out of work and hungry, the working class whether Mr. Block and etc. In other words, a direct threat; as his ilk squander their profits for their much so, as if it emenated from the purposes or divide it among their political office of the Public Service Company it- henchmen and state servants. It does, self (and who will say it did not?), that however, demonstrate the very close conthese hungry masses will be utilized as strikebreakers. This is, of course, to be expected. There only remains to be seen what the reaction will be.

Treachery and double-dealing on the executive committee of the ruling class." part of their leaders has not weakened the morale of the carmen, and particular- made in the standard of living of the ly their most militant section has, on working class, with wage cuts and starthe contrary, been strengthened by it. vation rampant in the country, with the The street car strike could give rise to experience of the strike against coolie a whole series of struggles in the ranks conditions in Kentucky still fresh in our of labor in St. Louis. The pendulum minds, it is quite instructive to read of has already swung too far to the right. the doings of the capitalist class and The commencement of its leftward swing their officers. The working class, which is imminent. There is work for the van- has been told by these same capitalist guard of the working class, the Commun- hirelings to "learn to live on less". to ists. With a correct program, a cor- accept wage cuts as a "patriotic duty" rect analysis of the immediate tasks, a to forget about unemployment insurance correct tactic of genuine united front because the budget has to be "balanced". with all working class organizations in struggle, against unemployment and practices, without the slightest fear of

-G. ROBERTS. The liberals, the preachers, and the

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, but the letter as such speaks for itself. It is but one more evidence Opposition make their way into the ranks of the revolutionary proletariat.-Ed.

"Secretary "Communist League of America

"Dear Comrade:

"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, which we hope to sell and return you the money. We are particularly anxious to introduce The Militant amongst the African Negro workers, and in order to handle it effectively, a committee consisting of twelve of our members has already been selected. Send us also 2 dozen copies of your constitution. Send us 12 copies of advertising posters, if you consider such necessary, and send us from time to time propaganda material, leaflets, etc., if you have any.

"The first copy of The Militant that came to our notice was Vol. 5, ' whole number 97, dated January 2nd, 1932. It contained an article entitled "Stalin and the Chinese Revolution". But we were disappointed for not having been able to obtain the previous copies. Is the issue in question, which we believe contains the first part of that article, available? If so, will you send us in the next mail two copies of that issue which we desire to keep on our file.

"Comrades! Do not worry over seeing all these applicants being Negroes, and think that we are purposely refusing to unite with the European comrades. No, we are not. It is only about two months ago that we have been considerdifficult for a Negro comrade to organize omic depression; the increasing burden a European worker, we hope that later modicum of radicalization and determin-difficult. Negro workers are generally there are any avenues of sell-out left to matters as revolutionary organization, and usually European workers are being considered superior. We have been functioning under the name of Communist Party of Africa.

> "The undersigned Negro comrades pledge themselves to accept your instruc-

> > (Contined from page 1)

man" of tiles to the city subway con-

What a farce these bootblacks of the

investment is made, is branded as ill-

We have no reason to and we are not

us it is irrelevant as to how the master

nection the master class has with the

leading government officials, vindicating

over again the contention of Karl Marx,

that the "state is nothing short of the

With the dent the economic crisis has

should take note of this outright and

flagrant hypocricy that the master class

"exposure".

begotten lucre.

we are led to believe, through knowledge rascals out" and changing the present

movement, for the complete overthrow of capitalism for the establishment of Communism in Africa."

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

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socialist party are out in full force,

tripe. First, because corruption is in-

herent in the capitalist system and will

not be eliminated until the whole de-

cadent mechanism of this system, in all

its ramifications is abolished. In return

for their services of keeping the work-

ing class in check, the political lackies

sometimes extort a greater part of the

booty than their masters have set aside

for them. The politicians are astounded

that their shady deals should be probed

in a system where everything is to a

greater or lesser degree of the same char-

acter. And Assemblyman Steingut cor-

heralded as a shining example of effici-

and waste much less time!

out, for the building of the revolutionary Highlights of Socialist National Convention in the coming elections. There is much

A Report of the Reformist Meet in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

clusive proof of the utter hopelessness all their oratory, the vote was taken and of the socialist party as a party of the Hillquit, the "international socialist" working class would have done well to emerged the victor, though his majority attend the socialist convention in Mil- was not big enough to his liking. wankee. There, he could get proof in fed shop keepers, doctors and lawyers,

It is not that radical phrases were port of betrayals. 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 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 pasta 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 working class on the one hand and the resolution on the Soviet Union. After in jail. the existence of the S. U. for some 14 years during which time the S. P. had sorry figure at the convention. Having never lost an opportunity of slandering no consistent revolutionary policy to it in the most vicious manner, this con- fight for, they made a feeble stand here vention suddenly adopted a resolution and there but vacillated and temporised calling for the recognition of the U. S. most of the way and thus revealed them-S. R. But their demand for recognition selves in all their impotence. The crass was so coupled with other demands and opportunism that triumphed, proved bepolicies 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 party. Indeed the fact that the S. P. adwas to remain for Russia-that is the revolution may have been all right for and 5 day week whereas the C. P. still barbaric Russia but in America the transition towards Socialism would be accomplished by respectable democratic nect its 6 cardinal immediate demands

ornia 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 "hotheads". All the big guns of the S. P. including Thomas, Hillquit and others the Left Opposition sent its delegates to discharged their best oratorial missiles support the Communist election camin an attempt to defeat this. The argu- paign, this support was scornfully rements were quite typical. The insertion | jected by the bureaucrats in control. of the word confiscate would certainly The glibly proclaimed united front has not get the vote of the "average citizen | become a farce by that fact alone. But 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 con- though, as that will be through force of fiscation. The final remark of the embittered Busick did not go far off the mark when he shouted that those who were so an election campaign offers, to advance much opposed to confiscation took that the ideas of Communism. stand because they themselves had much to lose by confiscation. The vote showed | CHICAGO DEBATE

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 of that city. Comrades Nathan Gould later developed. This was the time when and Norman Satir will take the negative are left. The inventory unexpectedly the U. S." Only in the workers' republic a split was much talked about by both of the question: Can the Socialist party showed that we have about ten copies on they deal more directly with grafters factions. It was the election of the play a revolutionary role in America. S. hand of The Turn in the C. I. and the Does "good government" improve the lot of the workers, assuming that it is Party chairman which created this situation. The delegates of the West and affirmative. possible? Does it hinder wage cuts or middle West had determined to defeat alleviate unemployment? Milwaukee, Hillquit and elect one who would build ency in government by the liberals and up a real "American Socialist Party" as reformers of the S. P. type is a striking the nominator of Mayor Hoan put it. The fight that followed lasted a whole proof to the contrary. No. Aside from saving money for the bosses (in which afternoon. The followers of Hillquit a camouflage issue, raised to distract the of Hoan over the question of the "real being received. In each case a check or ists to lay in a supply for future distriattention of the workers from the vital, American Party". They counterposed burning problems of their everyday ex-Hillquit to Hoan as the Marxian international socialist versus the national

Socialist. A sense of humor was essen-Anyone who wanted final and con- tial in such a situation, After spending

The old stand of the S. P. on the great abundance. It was an assemblage League of Nations was reiterated. The of well dressed, well groomed and well S. P. still regards the League of Nations as an instrument of peace and goodwill. from which the working class could ex- Similarly the past stand of the S. P. on pect little-least of all "Socialsm in our lits Trade Union policy was reiterated. This means continued betrayals and sup-

Comle 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 bewailing the fact that the Communists are interfering with the execution of of the presence of the "Militants" who 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 would save its face before the awakening the heinous crime of distributing a leaflet before a shop. And the ladies present section of belligerent party members on after displaying mock shivers of horror the other. Hence the adoption of a went to inspect the triumphs of socialism

As to the "Militants", they cut a most yond 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 opted such demands as the 6 hour day clings to the 7 hour day slogan as well as the fact that the C. P. failed to conwith the ultimate aim of the overthrow donations is as great as it ever was at One of the highlights of the conven- of capitalism and establishment of So- any time during the drive. After them, tion was the fiery discussion over an cialism, will tend to confuse the Ameramendment made by Busick of Calif- ican worker, and render his choice of the

The Party's Nominating Convention

...........

(Continued from page 1) conventions held by the party, to which nevertheless it will not succeed in preventing the Left Opposition from taking its part in the election campaign, modest

circumstances. We will do all in our

power, to utilize the opportunities which

On Sunday, June 12, at 8:00 P. M. at 3036 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, the be sold before the week is out. Left Opposition youth comrades will debate the Young Peoples' Socialist League of print, This one is Max Eastman's Since Larks and G. Smerkia will support the Situation in Germany. This is a rare op-

FOR SALE

Only six bound volumes of The Mili.

the last issue of the old format, Volume on it are continually increasing. Number 12, June 15, 1931.

We have on hand a number of incomplete files, unbound. We are waiting for forty-six copies left of The Real Situation comrades to send in the missing num- in Russia. As almost everyone knows bers to bind them. What we need most The Real Situation in Russia contains the are the following issues: Volume 1, Num- Platform of the Russian Opposition, ber 1, and Volume 2, Number 4. Upon Lenin's Testament, and A. Joffe's letter receipt of these issues we will be able to comrade Trotsky in which he explains to make up a number of additional files why and how the Stalinist bureaucracy

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EDITORIAL BOARD Martin Abern James P. Cannon Max Shachtman Maurice Spector Arne Swabeck

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SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1932 Vol. 4, No. 23 (Whole No. 119) real working class party quite difficult the American working class make the proper choice.

-NORMAN SATIR.

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

ionars.		
M. Koehler	3	
A. Basky	2 1-2	
M. Basin	2	
P. Vomas	2	
J. Eichna	2	
T. Halligan	1-4	
The record by cities	is as follows:	
Pittsburgh	4	
Youngstown	3	
New York	2 3-4	
Philadephia	2	
once more we want to	remind our r	

ers and comrades that, while the drive is over the need for rounding up subs and

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 mectin several state and city nominating ing 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 in teresting 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 Another historic document has run out

Lenin Died. Only four copies of this work portunity for a few comrades and readers to get a copy of this searching analysis BOUND VOLUMES OF THE MILITANT of the Comintern's mistakes under Stalinist leadership in the German question. Another fact which our inventory estant are left. Comrades who want this tablished is that our supply of the new indispensable, historical record should pamphlet on Germany, The Key to the hurry with their orders. Orders are be- International Situation, is running low. ing filled in the order in which they are It would be well for all our propagandmoney order must accompany the order. bution. With the swift pace of the de-The bound volumes include the seventy veloping revolution in Germany interest one issue from Volume 1. Number 1 to in it and in comrade Trotsky's writings

Another historic document is rapidly running out of print. There are only 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 arrangeeign \$2.50. Five cents per copy, ment we can place our literature at the mined effort to save our weekly Militant. Bundle rates, 3 cents per copy. disposal of workers unable to buy it.

The Results of Our Press Drive

-CLARKE.

	Quotas	Result
New York	\$ 325	\$ 140.7
Minneapolis	200	40
Chicago	100	44.7
Toronto	70	1.0
Cleveland	40	9
Philadelphia	40	5
Boston	40	5
Newark	35	7.2
Kansas City	30	2.0
St. Louis	25	
Los Angeles	20	6
Youngstown	10	8.2
New Haven	10	6
Montreal	10	
Duluth	10	
Springfield, Ill	10	
W. Frankfort, Ill.,	10	
Pittsburgh	10	10
Trenton	5	
Miscellaneous		5.5
Total	\$ 1,000	\$ 290.5

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 and offer them for sale. 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 dona-

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. [Subscription rate: \$2.00 per year; for-

Comrades, let us make one more deter-