

Letters from Militants

New York Gets Barbusse Congress Report

NEW YORK CITY.—
At a meeting held at the 14th St. Labor Temple, Thursday, Sept. 15, two delegates just back from the Barbusse Anti-war Conference held at Amsterdam reported on the results of the "historic" gathering.

Grover Mills, chairman, hailed it as "significant as the first time workers and intellectuals have united in an international struggle against war by this congress". And to demonstrate further the actual unity not only at the Congress, "an intellectual and a worker would speak to-night". Sad to relate, it was really the intellectual of the pair who really delivered the best speech. Professor Margaret delivered a sentimental, although undoubtedly sincere speech, in which she related such thrilling occurrences as the formation of a physicians' committee to study the biological reason for war; how beautifully one of the delegates, noted for his ability to relate fairy tales, drew the analogy of war and capitalism to a huge dragon, etc. A number of interesting observations of an informative character were also presented. "Not all workers," stated the astute lady professor, can do as Romain Rolland was able to do—when war broke out, he was able to go to Switzerland." Further typifying the fighting militancy with which these intellectuals have united with the workers in this "most significant event" the intellectual side of the program matter of factly "recognized" that it is of course the workers who must do the actual fighting, this the intellectuals will have to leave to them." On the whole not a bad presentation of the viewpoint of petty bourgeois pacifism.

And at tense silence we watched the worker side of the program wend his way to the platform and settled back contentedly for a real speech. An apparently sincere young fellow, MacFarland of the Marine Workers' Industrial Union, proceeded to shatter our illusions—and present as typical a product of Stalinist confusion as it has yet been our dismay to witness. After some details on the Congress hailing it as a great success, MacFarland greeted the fact that some soldier delegate had reported that in case of war he and the others would refuse to fight. Several vague statements on the necessity of fighting capitalism in the shops, a call to everybody to unite, a few figures and the representative of the revolutionary working class was through. After apologetically announcing that he was "no speaker, see, and I can't shoot any line", our young comrade sat down—ending a speech which at least had the value of brevity in contrast to the usual Stalinist harangues.

Our comrades Capelis and Glee then took the floor, and gave the correct Communist position on the struggle against war. The miserable maneuver of the Stalinists with this petty bourgeois pacifist crowd of Kollands and Barbusse was completely exposed; the crux of the international situation, Germany, analyzed as representing the real danger of war with Germany and against Russia eventually. If fascism seizes power, and the ten points on the conclusion of the "Declaration of the Bolshevik-Leninists" to the World Congress on War were read (See Militant, August 27).

Many questions asked, left MacFarland at a loss to reply. When asked whether the C. I. and Y. C. I. were represented officially he clearly showed that he did not know. Sen Katayama was there "representing the Japanese workers" Repeated questions of this sort rightly insulted the comrade; and in rebuttal he annihilated the plainly Trotskyist disrupters, who had the impudence (and obviously malicious intention) of trying to learn just exactly where the Party stood, if it was still standing anywhere, by loudly and indignantly proclaiming that he was "a member of the Communist party and damn proud of it!" We were not exactly sure whether someone had contested his right and we had missed this point—or if by some possible chance, our comrade MacFarland felt just a little bit ashamed of the whole rotten mess he had been shored into and was at a loss as to what else to say. Several speakers, somewhat saddened by the confused proletarian, jumped to the rescue, and saved him and some applause with the usual repetition of the now tiresome string of appellatives that the Stalinites with such remarkable adeptness and smoothness generously apply to their opponents.

After the meeting, a copy of the Militant with the above mentioned Declaration was distributed to each member of the small audience of about fifty. Even MacFarland accepted one and said he would read it. We hope he does, as he will have the opportunity to correct the bad and literally un-Communist speech he made there.

Socialists, Police Clubs and the Reds

NEW YORK, N. Y.—
Well, the class struggle has come up to our neighborhood at last. The Communists and the Socialists were holding election campaign meetings on the corner of Walton Ave. and 170th Street in the Bronx last week. The Communists were speaking on the southeast corner, the socialists on the southwest corner. Walton Ave. is a narrow street. Pretty soon it was filled from curb to curb with people listening to the speakers. Traffic got through with difficulty.

The police always on the lookout for excuses to smash Communist meetings, this time they were on the street. The speaker refused. The cop insisted. The speaker was firm. The cop attempted to pull the speaker off the stand. His comrades resisted. Other minions of the law tried to back up their "pal".

The crowd was fast getting bigger and was hostile to the cops. But it lacked guts. It booed and boomed but it didn't make any serious effort to pull the speaker and the other comrades who were being held, one by the testicles against the wall of a building, from the cops. Some workers, with more guts, then the rest, pushed the cops around and hit them back.

Then the sirens screamed as the emergency squad came flying down the street. They must have picked a green squad. You never saw a whiter bunch of faces. Fifteen husky, white faced mugs! Yellow—that's what they were. These guys are all right for beating up workers in the station house but they're plenty afraid of masses of workers. They soon found out that the crowd was as afraid as they were and they began pushing everybody around.

All this while the socialist meeting was going on. The speaker kept right on talking although no one could hear what he was saying. He knew that his meeting had nothing to fear from the cops. And the cops knew that the socialists were O. K. So while the Socialists who claim to represent the interests of the workers were making this united front with the workers enemies, the workers were being pushed around and some of them were being beaten up in the police cars by these same enemies.

In the thick of the fight a cop came over to the socialist speaker and asked him to hold off for a short while. The servile lackey of capitalism got down pronto! After five minutes or so he got up again and told the crowd that the Communists were getting what they deserved. He said that it was necessary for the police to act the way they were. He blamed the whole affair on the Communists.

Then Aaron Levenstein, another local socialist light got up to speak. He denounced the cops. That kind of talk is cheap, especially when they have just given you an unmistakable demonstration of their attitude toward you. Actions speak louder than words. What the workers saw was a united front between police and socialists from both sides. They cooperated with each other to smash the Communist meeting. Each side contributed according to its particular role. This kind of demagoguery is the chief stock in trade of the confusion these people spread around.

No doubt the Communists will return to this corner to protest against this latest piece of law and order and to explain to the workers the significance of what they saw. —A WORKER.

denmed and fought the revolt movement, which had refused to hand over hegemony to them. This they tried at first to do but the resentment of the Montreal tailors in general and particularly the Left wing was so great that the mass meeting called by the W. U. industrial union was cancelled.

The obvious contradictions and falseness of the policies of the Workers Unity League have not passed without sharp reiteration and dissatisfaction in the Toronto and Montreal industrial unions and Worker Unity Leagues. The organizer of the Industrial Union in Montreal had to be recalled. In order to pacify the disquiet amongst the industrial Union members in Toronto it was found necessary to send a delegation of the Left wing tailors to investigate the struggle of the Montreal tailors and report back. Further and more important, there took place in Toronto and for the first time in Canada a grouping of Industrial Union and Worker Unity League members for Leninist policies in the trade unions.

Vacillations, more vacillations and still more vacillations, have marked the policies of the Workers Unity League. It has become common talk "that the W. U. leaders no longer believe in their own policies but have to stick by the false decisions of the last R. I. L. U. Congresses."

Needless to say the Toronto Left Opposition has come in support of that group of members of the Workers Unity League and Industrial Unions who have opened up the struggle for the Leninist program. The birth of the progressive Left wing fraction was marked by sharp clashes with the Industrial Union leaders. The various attempts to disrupt the meeting of the Progressive Left wing fraction despite temporary success will finally fail to the ground. The members are determined to carry on to victory.

Shop meetings of Left wing workers called by the W. U. Industrial Unions have failed to record support to the present policies. At the shop where the Progressive L. W. F. had called a meeting of the Left wing workers, the Industrial Union leader who had come down and distributed copies of the Kampf which contained the attack against the Left Opposition and the "former Left wing workers" was sharply criticized by the workers. In other shops the Left wing workers have asked the Progressive Left wing fraction to call them to meetings.

It is necessary that this new movement in the Workers Unity League for Leninist trade union policies should not be localized. Contacts have been established in other parts of the country. There exists today the basis for a national movement.

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The Opposition at Wicks' Meeting

PITTSBURGH.—
On September 22 I attended a lecture by H. M. Wicks on the subject of "The Conditions in Germany and the Soviet Union". But he devoted most of his time to falsifying the history of the Russian revolution and slandering the Left Opposition led by comrade Trotsky.

The lies, the incoherence and the dishonorable methods the Stalinists use against the Marxian wing of our party did not prevent the audience from realizing the aim of the charlatan Wicks, and when the question period arrived he was surprised to see that all the questions were about Trotsky and "Trotskyism". One question was simply a remark that Wicks thinks the audience must be pretty ignorant to say that Trotsky did not organize the Red Army, that during the Donkin-Wrangal attack, Trotsky retreated while Stalin took over the leadership of the army and defeated the counter-revolution.

To my question if it was true, as stated in the Militant some time ago, that Wicks had delivered a speech in Gary, Indiana in 1923 at a banquet given in his honor by a bourgeois organization, where he said that the members of the socialist and Communist parties are only foreigners and knock them on the head because it is the only language they understand—he replied by "correcting" the dates. He said it was not in 1923 but that the Militant had the right date, 1920. About the banquet itself, he started to insult the Militant comrades Cannon, Shachtman and myself as drunkards, renegades and counter-revolutionists. "If I had delivered such a speech," he said in order to show what a big shot he was, "it would be printed not only in the small newspaper of Gary, but in the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune and the Sun-Telegram of Pittsburgh." When I asked him if he would accept a debate on the question, he said, Yes, with Cannon. So I replied that we would bring comrade Cannon to Pittsburgh to debate with him. Immediately he changed his mind and said that he would first ask his party. When I asked him to elect a committee to come into touch with us for the arrangement of the debate, he got mad and answered, "We don't debate

The Fight for Militant Unions in Canada

TORONTO.—
A most important opportunity is opening up for the Left wing in Canada, in the present growing national movement of revolt of the trade unionists against the corrupt, degenerated A. F. of L. unions. Amongst the miners, clothing workers, cloakmakers, furriers, building trade workers, etc., etc. the cry is for united struggles against the worsening conditions and for new militant unions that will fight.

For us of the Left wing one of the outstanding features of the present revolt movement is the growing contradictions between the Stalinist policies and the requirements of the arising situations. The official Left wing under the leadership of the Workers Unity League is paying a very heavy price for the 3rd period policies of adventure and sectarianism of the past few years, in the lack of confidence of the workers in their industrial unions.

Was it an accident that the revolt of over 3,000 Montreal tailors should break out as a spontaneous movement and not under the leadership of the official Left wing? Had the W. U. Industrial Unions carried their analysis and policies to logical conclusions they should have con-

demned and fought the revolt movement, which had refused to hand over hegemony to them. This they tried at first to do but the resentment of the Montreal tailors in general and particularly the Left wing was so great that the mass meeting called by the W. U. industrial union was cancelled.

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with renegades, but we slap them down." Then he declared that he had never delivered any speech at a banquet but spoke at an open forum.

Then I asked, What about the Committee elected by the E. C. of the party to investigate the speech after he had made application to join the party, in which comrade Cannon was also a member. First he said he had never signed an application because he was one of the founders of the party and he and Ruthenberg signed the charter of the party. Then he admitted that a committee had been elected, but Cannon wasn't on it; there were Lansisky, who is now in Russia, Jakira who died some years ago and Bedacht who is now in New York.

Now, in order to expose the professional liar Wicks, I think that the Militant should satisfy the demand of many workers of Pittsburgh by reprinting once more the speech with dates and proofs to them about who are the so-called revolutionary leaders in the ranks of the Communist party who attack the Left Opposition as "renegades".

—JAMES SIFAKIS.

Note: The Militant has on two occasions reprinted the full story from the Gary, Indiana, Post, which reports the renegade speech made by Wicks at a time when the Communist party was driven underground by the Palmer persecutions. The accuracy of the report has not been challenged by Wicks in the press, nor can it be. Every leader of the party who was a member of it in 1920-1921, knows that the report is veracious. Further proof of Wicks' renegeacy is indicated by Bulletin No. 2 of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America (underground) containing the decision to reject Wicks' application for membership in plain terms.—Ed.

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Surts Ahead!

Despite our slender resources, our activities have taken a real spurt forward. We have organizers working in several fields giving their services voluntarily and without any compensation. They are making new contacts and building the Left Opposition. There are two young comrades active in the Illinois mine field helping our miner comrades in their arduous task. Our Chicago comrade is making a tour of several cities in Iowa. Two of our members from Minneapolis are similarly active there. Plans are complete for such organization work in Pittsburgh and we can add that possibilities elsewhere press for similar action.

But The Militant, of course, remains the main organizer. Yet its existence is seriously threatened. We have appealed for the assistance of our readers, however, with only small response so far. More activities require a larger supply of papers and of literature. While our young organizers work without compensation we still have the duty of helping them to get around. Thus there is plenty of reason for renewing our appeal and making it more insistent.

Some of our comrades have responded with contributions, of which we list the following: Joseph Keller of Cleveland, I. Brody of Cleveland, helping our organizers get on their way, Sarah J. Linn of Birmingham, Ala., V. M. Johnson and L. Kogan from California, C. Schechet from Boston, J. Hamilton from Chicago, J. Sifakis from Pittsburgh sends in his own contribution and those of other comrades there. From New York we have received contributions from I. Miller, H. Norman, Harry C. and H. Norman. Then to mention a big item, our New York branch at its last meeting, in response to our campaign to establish the International Workers School and to locate it in new headquarters, pledged from its membership a total of \$128.50, with part paid in cash. It is necessary to mention in this connection also that since the middle of August the Chicago branch has responded excellently to our financial needs.

We have all the arrangements made for the International Workers School, located at New York. With that is coupled the question of new headquarters, an absolute necessity for the growing activities of the organization and for the school. All of these steps taken are compelled by necessity. Our opportunities are increasing, our activities are growing, our needs multiply. We are in a critical position. We must

advance. We must secure The Militant, our main organizer. We ask you to help us.

OUR SCHOOL

The \$300.00 drive to establish a school and new headquarters in New York is under way. This was a special order of business at the last branch meeting. Donations, pledges and enrollment amounting to \$12.50 for the school started the drive. Now we want the readers of the Militant to get behind this drive and help us put it over. Don't wait until we call on you—mail in your contribution, your registration, or come down to the office and talk this over with us. When we call at your house, don't tell the comrade that there is a depression on, that there are million unemployed, and others working at reduced wages, and that you have been hit by this depression. We have instructed our comrades not to take such "himsy" excuses. We are out to raise \$300.00 for the school and headquarters, to centralize our activity. And

not even the depression is going to stop us from obtaining this fund. In this fight, don't side us with the depression—stand with the Left Opposition.

If we put over the drive for \$300.00 we will release the National Office from pressing burdens, enabling it to devote greater attention and activity to the coal miners' strike in Illinois and to other pressing party and class problems confronting us. Help us take this step. Without the help of our sympathizers, without the help of the friends of The Militant, we will not be able to succeed. Let us hear from you at once. Enroll in our classes!

The first four classes will be:
The History of the American Communist Movement—James P. Cannon, 8 lessons every Monday from Oct. 17 to Dec. 5.
State and Revolution—Jack Weber, 10 lessons every Monday from October 17 to Dec. 19.
The History of the Comintern—Max Shachtman, 8 lessons every Wednesday from Oct. 19 to Dec. 7.
The Theoretical System of Marxism—Hugo Oehler 10 lessons every Wednesday from Oct. 19 to Dec. 21.
Registration for each course is \$1.00.

MILITANT SUB DRIVE

Our Club Plan

SUBS FOR MINERS

All eyes on Gillespie, Illinois! On October 3 the first conference of the Progressive Miners of America will go into session in this mining town. This will mark the high point of the first phase of our activities in the Illinois coal fields.

Then will begin the second phase of our work—the steady, plugging, day-to-day work of getting subs, making contacts and mouth-to-mouth discussions. In this work the Militant must be our best and ever-present spokesmen. Our present distributions are good but whether a miner gets two successive issues is a hit-and-miss proposition. If our policy is to be made clear to the miners, especially the more advanced miners, they must get and read the Militant regularly.

The solution of the problem is to get subs for the miners. Here is where our club plan comes in. You know that up to now a half-year sub of twenty-six issues was \$1. And now you know that in clubs of four or more sent in at one time on a blank like the one below, a half-year sub is fifty cents.

You do not have to be located in the coal fields to get subs for the miners. Wherever you live or happen to be located at the moment you can make a concrete demonstration of your solidarity with our class brothers. Go out to sympathizers and friends with our club plan blanks, explain the situation and our plan to them, and get a half-year sub AT THE OLD RATE. Explain that the extra fifty cents will be used for a sub for a miner.

We have a list of miners who want

the Militant but cannot afford even fifty cents for a half-year sub. Just as fast as we hear from you we will begin to transfer these names to the Militant mailing list. When you send in the club plan blank just fill in two names and addresses and leave two space blank. And be sure to send two dollars with the blank.

500 SUBS FOR THE MINERS

At a rough preliminary estimate there are five hundred miners out there in Illinois who are material for the Left Opposition. At the very least they can be easily interested in the Militant. It will take five hundred subs at the old rate to place a copy of the Militant in the hands of these five hundred miners for twenty-six weeks. Can we do it? We think it can be done. It is up to you. We are swinging into line on this question on a nation-wide front.

We realize that we are as yet only a small organization. But we are also aware of the certainty of our growth and we think that now is the time to take a big step forward. We will carry a regular list every week from now on of the number of subs for miners that you send in. This will be a separate list. The comrades who send in such subs on these club plan blanks will be included in the staff of Militant Builders.

MILITANT BUILDERS

Since the announcement of the opening of this drive and the writing of this copy too little time has elapsed for us to get any returns from our comrades and sympathizers. We are therefore unable to give a list of Militant Builders. But watch next week's issue!

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