

Organized Labor Under the NRA

Company Unions Gain Under the NRA

A survey of collective bargaining under the NRA was made by the Industrial Conference Board. The survey showed that Company Unions made bigger gains since the inauguration of the NRA than the unions of the workers, and that individual bargaining still hold the dominating place in the American scheme of class relations.

Green Admits the NRA Cannot Help Real Wages

The March issue of the American Federationist admits that the NRA cannot help the workers obtain an increase in real wages and that the trend of real wages is downward. Of course the Federationist does not admit that one of the many things the NRA was designed to accomplish, is a real wage reduction of the workers with as little resistance and as few strikes as possible.

International Workers School Notes

Two New Courses Are Being Started This Week

1. Elementary Russian: This is a course for beginners to be given by comrade S. Weber. The first session will commence at 4 P. M. next Sunday, March 25th.

2. Public Speaking: This course is exclusively for Left Oppositionists and members of the Spartacus Youth Club. It is intended to train speakers for our SPEAKERS' BUREAU.

All other classes are well under way but each lecture is self-contained, thus permitting those interested to attend individual sessions.

Trade Union Strategy and Tactics

Comrade Swaback will present interesting material in his next two lectures:

- 1. The revolutionary struggle in the labor movement.
2. The movement for the eight hour day.

Wednesdays 8 P. M.—March 28th and April 4th.

History of the Russian Bolshevik Party

Comrade Wright will deal with events that every class-conscious worker should understand thoroughly:

- 1. 1905—the Dress Rehearsal for the October Revolution.
2. The Years of Revolution (1905-1907).

Fridays 8 P. M. — March 28th and March 31st.

Fundamentals and Communism

Comrade Abern continues his course with lectures on:

- 1. The Bourgeois Revolution and the Working Class.
2. The Marxian Analysis of Capitalist Development.

Mondays 8 P. M. — March 26th and April 2nd.

GRamercy 5-9524 - - - This is the phone number of the Militant, The Communist League and the International Workers School.

Organizing the Home Relief Workers

About three months ago a group of workers in the Emergency Home Relief Bureau, under the pressure of intolerable working conditions and miserable wages, called an open meeting of Home Relief workers for the purpose of laying the basis for organization.

As a result of this meeting an Initiative Committee was elected and the E. H. R. B. Employees Association was formed. For two years prior to the formation of the Association, the C. P. members working in the Home Relief Bureau, although constituted as a UNIT, never called any open meetings of Home Relief Workers.

The extent of their activities constituted in issuing wild, ultra-Left leaflets distributed by the Unemployed Councils, calling for a general strike, etc. No address was given where workers could communicate with them.

Seeing the tremendous response

919 New Subs!

Sixty-five more new subs came in last week bringing the total up to 919 and bringing us within 81 subs of our goal of one thousand.

Table listing subscription locations and counts: Boston Br. 16, Oakland Br. 12, F. Berensmeyer 8, Chicago Friends of the Militant Club 8, Q. Parker 5, W. Sukut 4, New York Local 4, Philadelphia Br. 4, Davenport Br. 4.

TOTAL 65 The complete record up to date follows:

Table listing subscription locations and counts: New York Local 388, Minneapolis Br. 106, Kansas City Br. 48, Boston Br. 32, Pittsburgh Br. 32, New Castle Br. 24, L. Brown 20, Chicago Friends of the Militant Club 16, Oakland Br. 12, Philadelphia Br. 12, Davenport Br. 12, J. Hamilton 12, A. Teacher 12, Chicago Br. 12, Youngstown Br. 12, Q. Parker 11, F. Berensmeyer 8, F. Stimson 8, M. Steinbach 8, D. Marens 8, D. L. 8, J. Ruby 8, G. Pageau 8, S. Hardy 8, L. Giedeman 8, G. Kots 8, Los Angeles Br. 8, M. Hurwitz 8, Buffalo Br. 4, G. Ellis 4, D. Fogal 4, M. Gendelman 4, C. Hoffman 4, T. Mill 4, Salt Lake City Br. 4, W. Toupin 4, H. Sukut 4, W. Sukut 4, D. O'Dwyer 4, M. McLeod 4, St. Louis Br. 4, L. Murphy 4, M. Koehler 4, C. Genfan 4, R. Carlson 4.

TOTAL \$19 Can we reach the goal of 1000 new subs on the Club Plan this week? We are counting on it. What do you say?

WHITHER ENGLAND?

Pioneer Publishers have just received a supply of the English edition of "Whither England?" by L. D. Trotsky. Price 3c cents per copy postpaid.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The full page article by comrade Trotsky in a recent Militant, with its devastating summary of the 15th Plenum of the E. C. C. I., has evoked a demand for its re-publication in cheap pamphlet form. One sympathetic has offered to contribute \$10 for this purpose.

PIONEER PUBLISHERS 84 West 10th Street New York

Greek Workers' Club "Protomagia"

The Greek Workers Club "Protomagia" now has its own headquarters and reading room at 683 Eighth Avenue, Manhattan (between 10th and 41st Streets).

The headquarters are open from noon to midnight every day. Food and refreshments are served all day at the counter. All comrades are invited to drop in any time.

Next Sunday night, March 25th at 8 P. M., Arne Swaback will lecture at the Headquarters on "The Lessons of the Austrian Events". Admission free. Questions and discussion.

The Club intends to hold regular lectures every Sunday night and to conduct an agitation among the Greek workers to enroll them for active participation in the class struggle.

Announcements of other activities will appear in subsequent issues of The Militant under this heading. Watch for them.

Shachtman Tour

The schedule for the tour, in addition to the cities already covered, is as follows:

- Sat., March 24th—Minneapolis & St. Paul Minn.
Sun., March 25th—Minneapolis.
Mon., March 26th—Minneapolis.
Tues., March 27th—Minneapolis.
Wed., March 28th—Duluth, Minn.
Thurs., March 29th—
Fri., March 30th—Winnipeg, Can.
Sat., March 31st—Winnipeg, Can.
Sun., April 1st—Winnipeg, Can.
Mon., April 2nd—
Tues., April 3rd—Williston, N. D.
Wed., April 4th—
Thurs., April 5th—Portland Ore.
Fri., April 6th—Portland Ore.
Sat., April 7th—
Sun., April 8th—San Francisco.
Mon., April 9th—San Francisco.
Tues., April 10th—San Francisco.
Wed., April 11th—
Thurs., April 12th—Los Angeles.
Fri., April 13th—Los Angeles.
Sat., April 14th—Los Angeles.
Sun., April 15th—Los Angeles.

Shachtman Tour San Francisco

MASS MEETING "TOWARDS A NEW REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN THE U. S."

TUESDAY Evening, April 10, 1934 at LABOR COLLEGE HALL 1254 Market Street Questions Discussion ADMISSION FREE

TROYANOVSKY -- 1916 AND 1934

In 1916, when Lenin and Trotsky were struggling to reorganize the collapsed international labor movement, Alexander Troyanovsky, now Soviet ambassador to the U. S. A., published in Zurich, Switzerland, a pamphlet entitled Do We Need An International? There he vigorously assailed Karl Radek and his "disciple," Lenin for their theory that only a socialist revolution could defeat imperialism, called them "extremists" and deserters of the class struggle, criticized the Zimmerwald and Kienthal Conferences for being insufficiently internationalist, and offered instead a program, formulated, according to Troyanovsky's statement, by Kautsky.

The depths to which these sterling "revolutionists" will not go to win their objectives is difficult to imagine. This can best be illustrated by the fact that although they themselves take every precaution to hide the fact that they are "Communists", even going to the extent of denying it—without being pressed for a statement of belief—print attacks on other Communists in the Daily Worker, giving their political and organizational affiliations. And then they dare call other workers "stool-pigeons"! The Administration, no doubt, is very grateful to them for this information.

Needless to say they have been too busy with their factional activity to do any real work in the organization. Since the INITIATIVE COMMITTEE has been disbanded and they have had control of the organization nothing has been accomplished. Many of the problems on which the INITIATIVE COMMITTEE had begun negotiations with the Administration, such as pay for sick leave, which was promised—and some procedure for collective bargaining with the administration, have not been pressed. There also remain the other points on our program which have to be fought for, such as:

- 5-day week and 6-hour day for all Home Relief Employees.
50-day sick leave through the working year—with full pay.
A month's vacation to all employees with one year's service—and those with less than a year on, per diem basis, with pay in advance.

Two weeks pay on dismissal. The organization to have to fight to review all cases of dismissal. These demands can only be won by a leadership whose interest is the welfare of the Home Relief Workers and not the sectarian interests of "13th Street". Toward this end a progressive group is being formed to fight for a class-struggle policy, and against the disruptive activities of the Stalinist leadership in the organization.

If the highest goal of all our work, socialism, can and must be achieved by the workers of each

Australian Youth Organizations

Despite the existing conditions, which are favorable for organizing the youth, we find that the majority of the young Australian workers are unorganized.

The small section of the youth which is organized, is chiefly centered in the bourgeois sports organizations or other sporting bodies which pretend to remain neutral, such as the Y. M. C. A. and factory teams.

Even the Australian Labour Party, which has the support of the majority of the workers in Australia, has only recently established A. L. P. Younger Sets. However, these Younger Sets are essentially social clubs, which occasionally pass resolutions of confidence in "Jack Lang" the leader of the A. L. P., and sell buttons during election campaigns. They are neither more nor less than sporting and electioneering outfits.

Vain attempts have been made by the Young Communist League—Australian section of the Young Communist International—to organize the youth at various times, and it is these attempts that we shall endeavor to deal with in this article. Since the Y. C. L. claims to be the political vanguard of the youth section of the working class, and maintains that it is based on Marxism-Leninism, it is necessarily an expression of internationalism, and only by comparing its Australian section with other sections can we arrive at a correct estimation of its work.

MEMBERSHIP

From what we know, there is no country in the world, except the Soviet Union, in which the Y. C. L. is in any way strong numerically, or near the size of the Party. Its membership is continually fluctuating and has no ideological level.

In Australia, numerous young workers have been attracted to the League, but it has never managed to retain any but the careerist elements and a few sincere comrades. This is mainly due to the fact that the Y. C. L. has established itself as the "Communist Party of Youth", which drives out elements who, though class-conscious, are not yet prepared to be so active, or to accept discipline, as a party member would be. The sincere young revolutionaries, who are prepared to make sacrifices, soon become disgusted with the political passivity of the Y. C. L. and want to join the party.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE Y. C. L.

The League reflects all the internal diseases of the party. Bureaucracy is rampant. We find that individuals possessing no political ability, are elevated to the leadership because they are willing to carry out the instructions of the C.

C. of the party without question. No critical thought is allowed unless it is in accord with the party decisions. The unit meetings are a replica of party meetings; the same lengthy reports and theses are discussed, and the same amount of activity is expected from the young worker recruit as from a party member.

YOUTH SECTIONS

For several years there has been much talk within the party of organizing a youth section in every fraternal organization. The Y. C. L. drafts a few of their none too numerous comrades into a fraternal organization, and these represent the youth section. They busy themselves around their office, issue a few circulars; possibly recruit a few petty bourgeois elements who haven't the courage to join the Y. C. L., and that is the sum total of their activities. Why? Because there is no basis for such youth organizations. It is just as hopeless as forming youth sections in strike committees or defense committees. Some of the organizations that are supposed to contain youth sections are—the Minority Movement; United Unemployed Councils; League Against Imperialism; F. O. S. U.; I. L. D., W. I. R., etc.

On the basis of what is mentioned above, coupled with practical experience of working in the Y. C. L., we have come to the conclusion that the Young Communist League which sets itself up as the political vanguard of one section of the working class; is simply a juvenile Communist Party in a mutilated form.

SUGGESTED ORGANIZATIONAL FORM

The following is a brief outline of what we consider a superior method of working among the youth. That the youth question be taken up by a youth department set up within the party.

Such depts. to have the task of organizing youth clubs on similar lines to the Spartacus clubs, embracing social and educational activities.

The youth dept. would pay attention to anti-militarist work, organizing the children, and all other such phases of youth work.

The political lead should come from the political party, thus doing away with duplication and confusion.

On the question of a new Y. C. I. we are of the opinion that the work of the Y. C. I. could well be managed by a Youth Bureau within the Fourth International.

We hope that you will print this as a discussion article in the Militant or the youth paper Young Spartacus.

(Submitted by Australian comrades of the International Communist League).

MARCH OF EVENTS

MANHATTAN HOUSING.

East side, West side, the fetrapes of Manhattan have taken their toll of sixteen lives of women and children in recent weeks. Horrified working class mothers and children, aroused to realization of their awful plight, have demonstrated against these conditions brought about by the landlords' greed and have demanded enforcement of the law. And in good old muck-raking style, so effective in capitalizing misery to build up circulation, the New York Evening Post investigates and exposes the landlords' responsibility, none other, of course, than the elite of society, the wealthiest families, the Stuyvesants and Astors and Wendels.

These old tenement houses "paid for themselves" many times over with the exorbitant rents squeezed out of the poor. But the landlords have never an eye for the main chance, in this case the unloading of an investment that no longer pays on the city. So Vincent Astor, "liberal" host during Roosevelt's vacations, comes forward magnanimously to offer his many tinner-boxes to LaGuardia at any price at all—say, "to be fair", two-thirds or three-quarters of assessed value, immediately fifty other landlords follow suit. To understand this overwhelming burst of generosity one need only remember that assessed values are far higher than present real values; that the high land values in Manhattan act as an insurmountable barrier to the rehousing of families in the slum districts; that whereas dwellings have increased in all the other boroughs, they have decreased by more than five thousand in Manhattan in the past five years; that "recruiting" for the slums has decreased with the lowering of immigration. The mouths of the landlords water for the cash to be handed out by the R. F. C. for slum clearance. On top of this the City offer to tear down frog for the landlord, with the aid of CWA workers, all firetrap tenements which should have been razed years ago by the landlords. Yes, charity does begin at home!

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CUBA—

The situation of the organizations of the Cuban workers, the trade unions in particular, has become desperate. Mendieta, the "strong" man, the puppet speaking with the voice of Wall Street is attempting to carry out the mandate granted him by U. S. imperialism. He aims to break the backbone of the Cuban working class by first smashing its organs of struggle on the economic front, the trade unions.

The Cuban Revolution, the achievement of the Cuban masses, is at stake in the present struggle. Only the working class, leading the peasants and the oppressed masses, can save the Revolution by carrying it forward. A strong united front of the workers of town and plantation must be cemented by the building of Soviets, the weapon of defense of the workers. The united front of the oppressed has the immediate aim of defending the democratic rights won by the downfall of Machado, in particular the right to organize and strike. The workers are now on the defensive but, despite the Caffery-Mendieta machinations, the struggle has not yet terminated. Mendieta can still be prevented from consolidating power completely if the masses can be rallied in the struggle for democratic rights. But this struggle must be directed along the road to Soviets.

THE JAPANESE-ENGLISH TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

In the war of currency depreciation for the purpose of extending foreign market, Japan started the earliest and gained the most. She gained the most because her foreign trade forms so large a percentage of her economy and since inflation made her goods dirt-cheap in world markets, she was able to drive all competitors out of the market. The bulk of Japan's exports are textile goods, cotton and to a less extent silk. The cheapness of Japanese cotton goods has resulted in an amazing loss of business for the British textile mills. The largest Empire market, India, was flooded with Japanese textiles until the outcry of the English capitalists brought the threat to close this market completely to Japan. Japan retaliated by declaring a boycott on Indian raw cotton.

The negotiations for a "truce" on a world scale continued in London but the Japanese, in the superior position, wanted to limit the truce to British Empire markets only. The result was the breakdown of the conference and the problem has now been taken from the hands of the capitalists into those of the diplomats. Unquestionably the Japanese will lay down political conditions for concessions in trade that will involve the stand of England in the imminent war. If Japan can obtain England's promise to checkmate the U. S. in the matter of allying with the Soviet Union against Japan, the latter may hesitate no longer in her planned attack.

Well, Ambassador Troyanovsky, what about socialism in one country now? Are you still as bitter as ever against it? What about an international whose congresses are merely perfunctory—or never held at all? What about breaking up socialism into a series of national movements, limiting the horizon of the worker, postponing solidarity until after the revolution, and all the rest of it? And finally, your question of 1916, do we need an International?

—HARRY STRANO.

—JACK WEBER.