

EDITORIAL

Needed Now: A New Defence Organization

ONE of the most promising developments in recent days has been the activity displayed by the Provisional Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense and the hearty acclaim which has greeted its initiative in numerous circles of the progressive labor movement.

There is both a reason and a necessity for these manifestations. With the fearful examples of Europe before them, with the terrible threat of war and fascist reaction menacing the world, the need of solidarity in action becomes ever more imperious.

A significant aspect of the Provisional Committee is the presence in its composition of a number of people who in the past have been prominently identified with the work of defense organizations in administrative, publicity and executive capacities.

This confidence has been further reinforced by the efficient handling of the Bellucci case and the protest movement for the four young German Communists who were handed over to the Hitler police by the Dutch authorities.

It is high time. The strangulation of the I.L.D. by the Stalinist adventurers has long since passed

the point where the possibility of reforming this organization could be seriously debated among working class militants whose eyes are open and whose heads are in working order.

In our opinion the new organization should not represent a system of committees but a solid organization based on individual members assembled into permanent branches; labor organizations of every kind, sympathetic to the aims and purposes of the movement, should be affiliated collectively.

The composition of the new organization, in its leading bodies as well as in its branches, ought to represent a coalition of all the honest, progressive and militant forces, in the labor movement and sympathetic to it, who are willing and able to cooperate loyally in the fight against reactionary persecution.

Much depends on it. An honest defense organization, conscientiously carrying out in practice the policy of the united front, will be a support to the labor movement as a whole and a star of hope to the individual victims of reaction.

Let us hope that the near future will see the consummation of the program of the Provisional Committee and the definite launching of a new organization for non-partisan labor defense.

Crime and Economics

Starving Men Steal

In Buffalo, New York, a young unemployed worker is shot dead for taking a loaf of bread. In Chicago, three Negro workers are killed for participating in a protest demonstration against eviction.

In New York City scores of men have been beaten and jailed for demanding adequate relief. All over America in 1933—in Los Angeles, Detroit, Minneapolis, Philadelphia—tens of thousands of unemployed workers have been given jail sentences for stealing food, clothing, money.

As the depression deepens it is evident that the crime wave grows in intensity. Even a cursory examination of the latest criminal statistics will disclose the fact that the vast majority of crimes are petty crimes against property.

Petty crime, then, has a class basis. It arises from the worker's fight for life. It is on a different class basis than is gangsterism, for instance, which arises from bourgeois greed (in Chicago, for just one example, where has been traced the connecting links binding together the gangsters, Capone, Madden, O'Donnell, Durkin, etc.; the Pinkerton and Burns Detective Agency; the A. F. of L. trades unions, Tim Murphy and other leaders; the International Harvester Company, the Chicago Tribune and other manufacturers and newspapers; the judges, chiefs of police, aidmen, bankers, such as Melvin Traylor, Insull; city corporation counsels such as Etlleson, state's attorneys, etc.)

A survey of penal justice in the United States, and the penal code as it is functioning today, enables one to draw some interesting conclusions. Let us look at the following statistics, which indicate how crime increases in direct proportion as the proletariat becomes increasingly impoverished.

Isn't it obvious that our American school of criminology, with its cruel sentences, its fantastic jails and jollars, its unrealistic outlook, has not been able to lessen crime. On the contrary, America has arrived at a morass of vice which increases yearly with frightening speed.

reach the basis of crime. The swampy soil of crime is the economic poverty of the masses which leads to their intellectual and moral poverty. Abolish want and starvation and you strike directly at the roots of 90% of the crimes that are committed daily.

In 1932 and 1933 the following Part I offences were known to the police of this country:

The Economic Factor in Crime Figures for previous years are not even available, or have been suppressed, such is the quixotic manner in which our government treats its criminal problem.

THE CAUSE OF CRIME IS POVERTY! Let us turn for a moment to foreign shores. Here is a report by Mr. Negley Farson on crime in Great Britain:

Increase in crime coincides exactly with the industrial depression in Great Britain. Per million population, we find that burglaries were 3,000 in 1913, 3,500 in 1923, 8,000 in 1931—the rise of 4,500 or 150% during the last two years proves out Sir Herbert Samuel's (the British Home Minister) contention that crime increases in exact ratio with the industrial depression.

Table with 2 columns: Crime Type, Amount. Rows include Crimes against property with violence, Larcenies, Burglary, Total Larceny, Police expenditure, Robbery force expenditure.

More Criminals—Bigger Jails In New York City crimes against property have definitely increased during the depression. The living standard of the worker has been pushed lower and lower.

All Great Britain can think of to combat crime is to "impose longer and more plentiful sentences to penal servitude."

Second Strike Wave Under the NRA

In the main the efforts of the unions to enforce the provisions of the NRA. Now the situation is different. A great deal of disillusionment with the NRA has set in. Simultaneously the pressure of an ever rising cost of living, mounting more rapidly than any of the few wage increases, sets the workers into motion.

Toward the National Workers' Alliance in Spain

(Editorial in "La Antorcha," new fortnightly organ of the Spanish Communist League—Bolshevik-Leninists—May 1st, 1934)

Catalonia gave the signal and it resounded with an echo of clamorous enthusiasm throughout the country. The idea of the united front was translated into a hope-inspiring reality, the Catalan Workers Alliance became the first step towards the formation of the proletarian block, towards united action of all working class political and trade union organizations, in order to withstand the ever-increasing Fascist menace.

The Catalan pact contained at least one virtue: that of instilling into the Spanish proletariat confidence of its own strength, of overcoming the momentary discomfiture that might result from the electoral victory of the rightists.

The example of Catalonia was immediately followed by Valencia. The Catalan Alliance demonstrated its vitality on the 13th of February, declaring a general strike, which, while it is true that it failed in Barcelona due to the period of transition through which the working class movement is passing, was carried through successfully in over forty towns throughout the region.

For the moment only these two Alliances exist on a regional scale; but very shortly, the united front will be a beautiful reality in Asturias, and in the rest of the country it has already been established in many cities and towns and is in process of formation in many others.

The lesson to be drawn from these experiences is that the cause of the united front is definitely won, in the sense that it counts on the adhesion of the immense majority of the workers.

New York Organization Notes

The recent period has been distinguished by an intense activity of the Communist League in New York, and a campaign to bring forth the program for the building of the new party of the Fourth International.

Issue is Organization Still this tells only part of the story. The main issue in the present strikes is the struggle for organization and the struggle against the company union monster.

This agreement legalized the company union. It attempted to sweep into the discard all that organized labor had previously gained. The big corporations, stiffened by this direct encouragement decided to make an end to any further union advance and began to apply the iron hand and discriminate against union members left and right.

Militancy, turbulent clashes with the forces of the capitalist government and increased hostility to the NRA—these are the outstanding features in this present strike wave. It centers entirely around the A. F. of L., the so-called revolutionary unions of the T.U.U.L. being in evidence only in the statements they issue from their paper organizations.

throwing obstacles into the path of the revolutionary movement, and the stubborn sectarianism of the leaders of the Iberian Anarchist Federation (F.A.I.) which is surprisingly close to the anti-Marxist ultimatum of the official communists, do not substantially alter the reality of the general adhesion of the workers to the Workers Alliance movement.

But it is necessary to build this movement, it must be organized rapidly and without losing a single minute, if we wish it to render the enormous potential efficiency contained in it. And the first step in this direction—and which may be decisive—is the constitution of the Workers Alliance on a national scale.

For a National Conference In the Regional Conference to take place in a few days, the Workers Alliance of Catalonia will take the initiative of calling a National Conference. No moment could be more opportune for this step.

REVIEWING THE NEWS

Mike Gold the Mathematical Wizard At last the secret is out. A great mystery to all readers of the Daily Worker since the start of the 3rd period has been: What system of mathematics is used in estimating the numbers in the T.U.U.L. unions, mass meetings, parades, etc., and also who are the mathematical geniuses in charge?

Mike Gold is one of the experts and a new Stalinist form of Geometric Progression is the system— all carried on under the general slogan "Down with Social Fascist Facts." Writing on the Union Square May Day demonstration, Mike cried for a Shakespeare as the only one capable of doing justice to it.

And this is how Mike figured it out. There were 200,000 in Union Square and 200,000 more along the line of march. That made 400,000. But, said Mike, let's cut it in half and that leaves 200,000 (what's a fifth of a million to a free-hearted fellow like Mike?).

Take the 200,000. Is it not a fact, Mike asked, that every Communist has 5 sympathizers and friends? That makes a million. (According to my figures that would total 1,200,000—but of course what is a small matter of subtracting 200,000 when you can always multiply by five?).

At this point, overwhelmed by the impetuosity of the Stalinist movement in New York, Mike says, "Let's not labor the point." But why not? Let us look at it again. The average family in New York consists of four persons. Multiply the million by four and we have 4,000,000.

Politicians and Their Price Senator Warren T. Thayer, the State Senator who never made a speech but who had great influence on the Senate, is being investigated. While chairman of the Senate Public Service Committee he was also on the payroll of the Associated Gas and Electric Co., and in this capacity was instrumental in killing numerous bills, which in one way or another would have interfered with the privileges of the Utility Company.

One bill, providing for the safety of workers engaged in the repair and construction of high voltage

The Johnson Bill and Credits to the U.S.S.R.

Militant has discussed the question many times. Here let us note from Litvinov's figures to what extent the Soviet Union's dependence on the world market has grown with its economic successes and what demands on the market its further progress makes necessary.

Why doesn't the Soviet Union buy more, the U.S. export more? The Soviet Union has explained again and again that it will buy plentifully up to the limit, if it gets favorable credit terms.

Until now the United States has discouraged trade with the Soviet Union. Its policy was motivated by fear of the October Revolution and the hope of preventing its growth economically and consequently in the military sphere as well, by withholding from it what it required most—machinery.

Now the American imperialists are vitally concerned with the Far Eastern market. In the Soviet Union's strength they see a check to Japan. They are not averse to lend a cautious hand in strengthening the Soviet Union a little—on their terms.

Pressure on Soviet Union Trade and credits are the subject of the discussions taking place in Moscow now between Bullitt and

electric lines, did not come to his committee but to the Assembly Labor and Industry Committee. However the worthy Senator wrote the Associated Gas and Electric that they could depend on him to kill it. "Horse thieves", kidnappers and gang leaders are honorable and upright men compared to such demagogic swine as this who spout about democracy and then sell the lives of electric line men for thirty lousy pieces of silver.

We Are Challenged The series of Sunday night lectures on the Fourth International by Comrade Cannon at the Irving Plaza hall, are attended by capacity crowds who stay until almost midnight to discuss the questions of War, Trades Unions, Fascism and the New International. Though the great majority of the audience have been won for the Fourth International, there are however, representatives of practically all tendencies in the movement present who hotly question the position put forward by Comrade Cannon and advance their own.

At the last lecture a member of Section Two of the New York Stalinite Party challenged Comrade Cannon to debate with a representative of his Party. On Cannon's statement that he would be glad to accept the challenge, the C. P. member announced that he would go back to the Party and demand that the debate be held. So we'll either have a debate or another C.P. member will learn that the Stalinists do not debate with International Communists.

American Traditions—A Fable Breaking completely with all alien and international "jabberwocky" movements and traditions a group of professors in the "America for Americans" Party have delved into early history and dug up the story of what may have been the first American Revolutionist.

This was no immigrant of the 17th, 18th, or 19th centuries. None of the "foreign rabble" with their alien theories, who came to America with Columbus or in the few centuries since his arrival, contaminate this tradition. No, this group of professors speaking the American language, drinking American whiskey, and digging with American shovels, have dug up the story of Ajjayyabee, a mound dweller who led the mound dwellers in battle against the aristocratic cliff dwellers.

Unfortunately the revolt was not successful and Ajjayyabee was beheaded, cooked and eaten at midnight sometime following the last ice age. Ignoring the memory of this hero, and in order to strengthen the purely American tradition, the "America for Americans Party" are holding a midnight supper at the Kaff-Kollez Cafe. At the supper a collection will be taken up for the benefit of the lineal descendants of Ajjayyabee.

Soviet officials. The ruling of the Attorney General is to put pressure on the Soviet Union. It is an act of aggression characteristic of the strategy and methods of the world's dominant capitalist power. It gives the lie direct to the Stalinists and their Lovestonite apologists who maintained in the face of what the world saw to be untrue, that the U. S. was forced to grant recognition because of its desperate internal situation.

What the U. S. demands, what the Soviet Union offers we do not know. The discussions are taking place according to the best rules of Stalinist-capitalist diplomacy—in the dark. No word has leaked out. That is what fills us with misgiving.

Fight for Soviet Credits! Five years ago the International Communist proposed to the Comintern that it mobilize the masses of the capitalist countries to bring pressure on the capitalist governments to grant the credits, by this means to assist the Russian workers in building up the economy of the country and to relieve their own situation through the employment trade with Russia would create. The C. I.—think of it!—denounced the idea as counter-revolutionary and went hat in hand to the capitalist governments.

Today the C. I. which has no real existence cannot mobilize the masses for a revolutionary struggle to assist the Soviet Union. The Marxists must do it without and against the C. I. That is the duty of the League and all those working class organizations which really mean to defend the Soviet Union, and especially of those which declare for the revolution internationally and in the U. S.

Dance and Entertainment SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1934, 8 P.M. at 130 East 107th Street Admission 10c