

REVIEWING THE NEWS

L. R. writing from Philly on the "Stalinist-Divine" unity says: "Perhaps after all we are 'counter-revolutionists' because we were for a united front with the devil and his grandma against Fascism while Stalinism makes united fronts only with God."

That S.P. "Communist" Declaration

The more Norman Thomas explains it, the clearer it becomes that the "Declaration of Principles" was for Thomas and many others just a gesture to the left without any serious nor militant intention of opposing war.

Recent "Liberal" Moves by La Guardia

Denounced spokesmen for the unemployed as "yellow dogs". Approved the clubbing of starving men and women for protesting against starvation.

La Guardia, during his campaign for Mayor of New York, outdid Roosevelt as a "champion of the people." He, the "free, fearless, non-partisan fighter" is revealing daily that if he attacked Tammany gangsters it was only to sign up with the bankers who want to eliminate the Tammany retail grafters in order to better carry on wholesale robbery of the workers and unemployed of New York.

The Youth and War

"Young men—all of them—en-signs with the gilt of rank upon their shoulders—leading lads burned darkly brown by tropic suns. White uniforms—brown faces—and youth... 'How young they are!' others exclaimed."

In the same issue of the Times, Sunday, June 3, is the story of another parade of youth and its sequel. A court martial is being held in France to review the case of four youth who were court-martialed and shot in 1915.

"It was a veritable slaughter-house," said Major Dubost, describing conditions on the field of battle. "Bodies of those killed in previous combats lay so close together they touched one another. Not a meter of space was free from corpses, with faces blackened in decomposition."

"The officers ordering the assault ran forward in a rain of machine-gun fire," one of them testified, "and dropped to cover in shell holes, but their men had failed to follow. They refused to move."

Afterward came the investigation. The whole company had disobeyed and General de l'Etoile, in command, ordered the whole company court-martialed.

At the trial Corporal Morange merely said, "It is always the same with men who are ordered to go forward to death."

Role of the Stalinists In Minneapolis Strike

The Stalinists have two ways of looking at the same strike situation at all times, no matter where it is, in New York, in Toledo, San Francisco, or Minneapolis.

During the five months prior to the strike the official Communist Party had no part whatever in the building of the General Drivers Union. They had no members in it. But some of their sympathizers were working loyally with the members of the Communist League in the union.

On the Eve of the Strike

One thousand, two thousand, going on to three thousand workers signed up with Local No. 574. Yet among them not one Stalinist appeared on the scene.

The effect if any was a few more drivers on the sidelines—very few—for the main mass of members voted solidly for strike.

The strike was effective. The city was tied up. The union held a meeting. The strike committee of seventy-five was reporting.

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working class—a training in filling gaps, in skirmishes with police and gunmen, in evading and experiencing arrests. Only on Friday were some C. P. militant members seen on the picket trucks leaving Headquarters.

The Saturday Events

A thousand special police had been assembled. The battle for the market began. Brushes throughout the morning, grew more ferocious around noon, and extended until three o'clock when the police were called off.

Saturday night, S. K. Davis of the I.L.D. was given the floor to speak for the Committee of 23 (all defendants in the Court House employment riots of April 6th).

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QUESTION BOX

Numerous questions from readers concerning various phases of the class struggle have prompted the Militant to initiate this column.

Comrade G. Flint: General Motors is the only automobile corporation for which figures, of the kind you request, are available at present to this editor.

No! The Stalinist policy in the automobile situation was not correct. One of the main issues was recognition of the A. F. of L. union which the bulk of the workers were joining.

Comrade B., N. Y.: The author of the statement that fascism and the social democracy "do not contradict each other, but supplement each other." They are not antipodes, but twins.

Yes, Welsbord claims adherence to the International Left Opposition, but even on such points as our attitude towards the Soviet Union you will find quite a divergence.

Trotsky castigates this viewpoint ("Soviet Union and the Fourth International", p. 6: "The most widespread, popular, and at first sight irrefutable argument in favor of the non-proletarian character of the present Soviet state is based upon the reference to the strangulation of liberties of proletarian organizations and to the almighty dictatorship of an apparatus, which has led to the dictatorship of a single person, with the dictatorship of the proletariat as a class? Isn't it clear that the dictatorship of the proletariat is excluded by the dictatorship OVER the proletariat?")

Such enticing reasoning is constructed not upon a materialistic analysis of the process as it develops in reality but upon pure idealistic schemes, upon the Kantian norms.

Yipsel, Boston: According to the U. S. War Department figures there were 37,484,186 casualties during the world war; 57.8% of the total mobilized force.

Despite the bureaucracy, the Soviet Union, so long as it retains its class character (i.e. as long as the means of production remain the property of the proletariat) can NOT conduct an imperialist war.

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Y.C.L. Holds Seventh National Convention

On June 22nd, the national convention of the Young Communist League, originally planned for Detroit, will open in New York City.

Three years ago the sixth national convention of the Y.C.L. went through the same ritual. As then, the mass of Y.C.L.ers are indifferent to the pre-convention discussion which is a farcical ceremony that no one takes seriously.

From a League of less than 2,500, the Y.C.L. has grown almost three times to a League of more than 6,000, states the leading editorial of the Young Worker (June 19th, 1934).

Six thousand members in the Y.C.L. in June 1934. Yet between January 1932 to July 1933 seven thousand young workers joined the Y.C.L. (Y.C.L. Builder, September 1933.)

In no field can the Y.C.L. record any real success. Its inner life is drab and uninteresting, discouraging systematic activity or stable membership.

In the anti-militarist and anti-Fascist field, the Y.C.L. has the "Youth Section of the League Against War and Fascism", a sectarian outfit based on a confused program which has very little influence on the non-Stalinist radical youth of the country.

In any case, we hear of the work of the Y.C.L. in the shops and factories, in the unions—if not A. F. of L., at least T.U.U.L. Here also there is more noise than accomplishments.

The major economic activity of the Y.C.L. has been and remains that of hunting for "youth demands". If there are no special youth demands they are manufactured or the demands of the workers are labeled "youth demands".

Militant Builders

SIX MORE WEEKS TO GO. No Cards Sold After August 1st. COMPLETE RECORD. Minneapolis Local 40, New York Local 36, Cleveland Branch 34, Chicago Branch 28, Los Angeles Branch 28, Boston Branch 8, Chicago Friends of the Militant Club 8, San Francisco Br. 8, Philadelphia Branch 8, Constancia N. 8, Davenport Branch 8, Toronto 8, Kerkeley (Kogan) 4, Ben. L. and I. Porter 4, Leeser 4, New Haven Branch 4, New Castle Branch 4, Newark Branch 4, Oakland Branch 4, Springfield Branch 4, St. Louis Branch 4, Osborn, Frisco 4, Toronto Branch 4, Toronto Youth Club 4, Waukegan Branch 4, Youngstown Branch 4. TOTAL 274

MARCH OF EVENTS

Fascism and the Junkers. If Von Hindenburg and Von Papen, the spokesmen for the Junkers, yielded to the upstart Hitler and permitted him to come to power, it was not because of any love for plebeian fascism.

The impotence of the American Young Communist League is a reflection of the failures of Stalinism over the entire world. It is a condemning fact that after the German and Austrian events there was no mass ferment in the Y.C.L. Unlike the Y.P.S.L., it was almost immune from the world shaking events.

The S.Y.L. is today the embryo of the coming revolutionary youth movement in the United States. Based on a Marxist program the S.Y.L., through participation in the class struggle, anti-militarist activity, anti-Fascist work, through educational and cultural activity, will take its place as the leader of the young workers and students.

From the start it was quite evident that the petty bourgeois base of fascism could not endure. The followers of Hitler, misled by catchwords and demagoguery, were bound to become rapidly disillusioned.

Pledge Fund

Through an oversight, we omitted to print last week the names of the comrades of the Manhattan Branch, N. Y. C. who pay on their pledges regularly.

Manhattan Branch: I. Glade \$1.00 monthly, Leonard Lewis 1.00 weekly, Dorothy Morris 1.00, Clara Nelson 1.00, J. Wright 2.00 monthly, M. Spithos 1.00, S. Bleeker .50, S. Gordon 2.00, Paul King 1.00, Florence Becker 2.00, J. Weber 2.00, M. Tamas 1.00, F. Victor .50, M. Kling 2.00, E. Konikow 1.00. Others in New York City: I. Porter 1.00 monthly, E. Alby 1.00, E. E. C. 1.00, E. J. Conwit .50, Cornelis 1.00, Samuel, E. 1.00, Ann Ehrlich 1.00, The Geltmans 1.00, L. Haidous 1.00, P. Miller 1.00, Sydney Moroff 1.00, A. McCabe 1.00, City Subway Worker 1.00, Beecher .50, Colay .50, Cochran .50, Jerry Marsh 1.00, Ann Toven 1.00, Gonzales .50, T. Smith 2.00. Bronx: Edith Sher 1.00, S. Eckstadt 1.00, M. Lifshitz 1.00. Newark, N. J.: Lambert 1.00, G. Holly .50, L. Nagy .50, Becker 1.00, G. Kots 1.00, A Sympathizer .50, A Social Worker 1.00, A Clerk .50. Boston: E. Wiener .50, C. Sheket .50, W. Henderson .50, J. Chiplowitz .50. Others: A. Wolfe, New Haven 1.00, A. Friend, Youngstown 2.00 (paid 4 months in advance), A Teacher in N. Y. C., paid for 16 months in advance, A Friend of The Militant paid \$25 in advance at \$1 a week, B. Welsbroth, Coney Island, cannot pledge a regular sum but contributes to this fund from time to time. He gave \$1.00 this week, stating: "This has nothing to do with the Organization-Press Campaign. I'll sell the coupons and bring another dollar soon.", A Steel worker from West Virginia sent in his second contribution of \$5 to the Pledge Fund. He writes: "I'll send more as soon as I get work again.", C. Hudak of Cleveland, Ohio contributed One Dollar a short time ago.

The big bourgeoisie, always alarmed at the possible outcome of civil war, having gained their ends through a dictatorship, are anxious to bring about "law and order" as soon as possible after a victory. The demagoguery of fascism, aping socialist phrases to win the tradesmen and the professional classes, never pleased big business. Nor does the attempt by fascism to establish the corporate state appeal to bankers and industrialists. They prefer an alliance, at the earliest possible moment, with a more stable ruling caste. That power in Germany has been traditionally the landed barons, the Junkers. The time for a change may not yet be ripe. Here we merely indicate a trend that is clearly to be seen. The dictatorship of the plebeian fascists, resting on the petty bourgeoisie, tends to become transformed into a military dictatorship. As Engels says: "It seems a law of historical development that the bourgeoisie can in no European country get hold of political power—at least for any length of time—in the same exclusive way in which the feudal aristocracy kept hold of it during the Middle Ages." We are witnessing the workings of this law. —J. WEBER.

—BILL.