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One Year of the Workers Party

By A. J. MUSTE

A YEAR ago the Workers Party of the United States came into existence as a result of the fusion of two of the most significant currents in the American labor movement.



A. J. MUSTE

They fought within that International and after expulsion as a group seeking readmission, against the Stalinist line of "socialism in a single country," etc.

Those who have some knowledge of the interaction of groups within the labor movement know that "fusions" by no means always result in fusion.

Now this achievement of fusion is in itself a big thing. If there were nothing else to record at the end of the year, this year in the existence of the W.P. would none the less be justified.

The fact that the year has not been marked by anything approaching a mass influx of members into the W.P. in no way invalidates this estimate.

The period in which the W.P. lived out its first year is predominantly reactionary in character. The trend away from parliamentary democracy, the open resort to Fascism in many instances, the piling up of armaments, the actual outbreak of war between Italy and Ethiopia and the increasing tension in the foreign relations of all the important capitalist powers are all illustrations of the general trend.

The pressure upon the working class movement from capitalism making a desperate effort to save itself is in such a period tremendous. The world labor movement has suffered severe set-backs in recent years and important sections, such as the German and Austrian, have been almost obliterated.

From a superficial viewpoint the general trend is obscured by certain developments in the Second International and its parties. The crisis of the democratic state, the developing break of the bourgeoisie with social reformism in favor of Fascism undermines the internal stability of the social democracy as it involves its ultimate destruction.

This does not mean that it is our concept that the Second International is now becoming the "international of revolution." As the Open Letter stated, "the social democracy everywhere continues to remain the agency of the bourgeoisie within the working class."

230 Hear Shachtman in L. A.

LOS ANGELES.—At a mass meeting of some 230 Los Angeles workers Max Shachtman gave an inspiring lecture on "War and the Soviet Union."

Big Auto Strike Brewing

M. Lewis Reported Retired

Minneapolis C.L.U. Refuses Splitters Aid; Negotiates with 574

By CARL O'SHEA

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 25.—In strong contrast with its initial bombast, the attack of William Green and Meyer Lewis upon the progressive labor movement of Minneapolis has quieted down to a whisper.

The Minneapolis Central Labor Union has told Lewis they can settle matters with 574 without his assistance. The executive board and a special committee from the central body asked for a meeting with 574's executive board, and on Tuesday morning, Nov. 19, the two groups conferred for the first time, with the hope of bringing about peace in the local trade union situation.

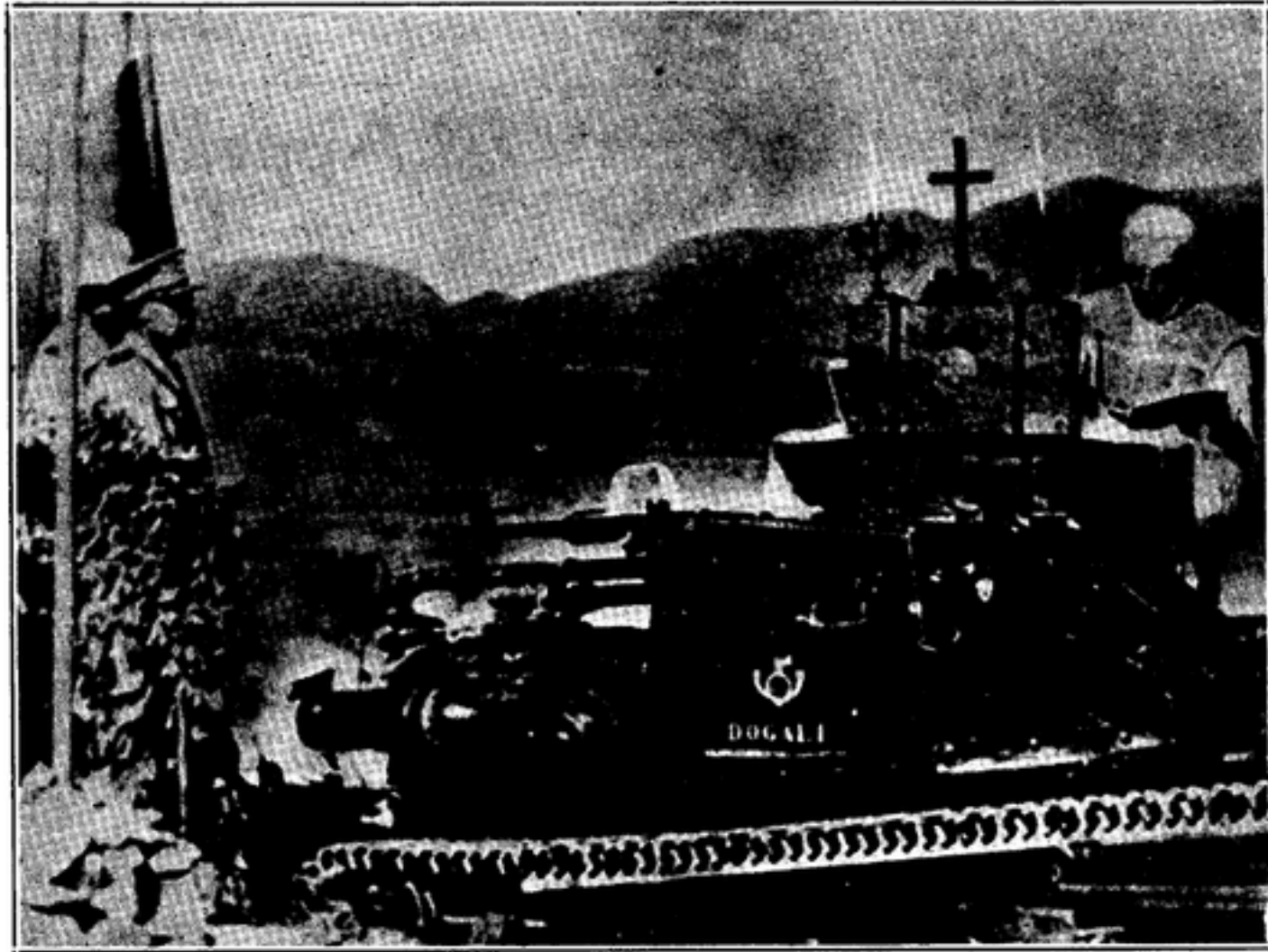
On Thursday morning 574 again met with the A. F. of L. committee. It is understood that the General Drivers union is proposing that the local trade union movement recommend 574 be reinstated in the Teamsters and Drivers International.

Local 574 is in a strong position for three reasons: first, its own control of the workers; second, the local trade unionists want to support the General Drivers; thirdly, the national situation is shaping up in favor of the advocates of industrial unionism.

Minneapolis employers, encouraged by the irresponsible and false statements of the red-baiting Meyer Lewis, are making a strong drive to re-open the Strutwear Hosiery plant, where 1,200 hosiery workers have been on strike since August 15.

Alexander McKeown, first vice-president of the Hosiery Workers, who is conducting the Minneapolis strike, has answered this proposal by pointing out that "it offers no assurance to our membership that grievances or complaints placed before the management will receive just consideration and action to adjust the grievances and complaints."

SPOUTING THE GOSPEL IN ETHIOPIA



ASMARA, Ethiopia—Above is a portable altar used by the Italian general staff to sanctify the murder expedition in Ethiopia. (Associated Press Photo)

Peoples Front Cracks in Crisis Fred Zeller Declares for 4th Int'l

Paris Socialist Youth Leader Writes Stirring Pamphlet

Comrade Fred Zeller, acknowledged leader of the revolutionary Socialist Youth Federation of the Seine, has declared for the Fourth International, and for a new revolutionary party in France.

VOTE TO STRIKE ILL. WPA

Mass Conference of Illinois Workers Alliance Draws Up Demands for Wage Increase and Hour Reduction

AUBURN, Ill., Nov. 24.—Delegates representing thirteen well-organized counties of the Illinois Workers Alliance unanimously voted today to strike all WPA projects in Illinois Dec. 16.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

Watch for the next issue of the NEW MILITANT for a complete factual report and political analysis of the Browder-Thomas debate held Thursday at Madison Square Garden.

Army Stocks Up in Cas...

The War Department over the last six months has ordered \$3,836,786 worth of blankets. This blanket order is described by The Wall Street (Oct. 22, 1935) as "the first substantial order since the World War."

Radicals, Stalinists, Socialists Collapse at First Test

The Bonapartist regime of Pierre Laval sought and secured a temporary renewal of its mandate this week from the Chamber of Deputies which reconvened on Thursday. Fear for the safety of the franc stemmed the doughty Radical Socialist leaders of the Front Populaire back into the arms of Laval.

BARBERTON LABOR RISES

Plan General Strike in Akron Suburb to Meet Threat of Militia; Reporter Tells of Heroic Battle

BARBERTON, Ohio, Nov. 25.—6,000 organized workers in this highly industrialized suburb of Akron planned a general strike to back 300 strikers at the Ohio Insulator Co., a Dupont subsidiary, against possible use of the National Guard and martial law to smash the solid picket line, after their threat of the city-wide walkout forced the sheriff to withdraw 60 scabs and completely shut down the plant.

Chevrolet Plant May Lead Off

Motor Products Strike in Detroit Is First Skirmish

BULLETIN

TOLEDO, O., Nov. 26.—At the mass meeting of the Toledo Chevrolet workers, held this Saturday afternoon, the Chevrolet men unanimously rejected the company's proposal of a seven and a half-hour day, four-day week, three shifts—a proposal which would automatically throw 900 of the Chevrolet employees out into the street.

The Chevrolet executive committee is already establishing contacts with the "Committee for Industrial Unionism" with the aim of immediately organizing Saginaw and Muncie and other unorganized General Motors plants in the Detroit area.

With the bitterly fought Motors Products strike in Detroit holding out solid, and the prospect of the Hudson plant men going out very soon, the prospects are that hell will be popping loose around these parts in the immediate future. The whole party must be keyed up to the possibilities of the situation, and must stand ready to give the men in the field all their aid, at a moment's notice.

TOLEDO, O., Nov. 21.—The Chevrolet plant at Toledo has opened its doors this Monday, after a four-week shutdown, and announced through its general manager, Mr. Gulliver, that the plant will rehire 1,100 men. (Prior to the lay-off approximately 2,200 men were employed at the plant.)

The shop committee, headed by its chairman, James Roland, has been in interminable negotiations with the management since Monday. The final proposal as submitted by General Motors, was 7 1/2 hour-day, four-day week, three shifts. This arrangement would hire approximately 1,400 men, still lopping off some 800 Chevrolet employees.

The shop committee is in a quarrel. (Continued on Page 8)

I. W. A. LEADER



Gerry Allard reported for the Action Committee. The chairman of the conference was Gerry Allard who stated in a burning address that the unemployed workers of Illinois would win their demands for union wages. (Continued on Page 4)