

The New York COMMUNIST

Official organ of the Left Wing,
Socialist Party,
Greater New York locals.

John Reed Editor
Edmond Mac Alpine Associate Editor
Maximilian Cohen Business Manager

Published Every Week.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 Year \$3.00
6 Months 1.50
3 Months75

Single Copies, 5 Cents.

Bundle Orders of 10 or over, 3½ Cents
a Copy.

43 West 29th Street - - New York City

COMRADES! Across the sea the workers are rising, wave on wave. The surf of Social Revolution beats on the crumbling dikes of the old order.

The nations of the world are bankrupt. The Capitalist System is bankrupt. The headlong competition of the two imperialist groups of nations, resulting in the great war, has wrecked the international credit system upon which Capitalist Imperialism is based, and taught the industrial proletariat that there is no hope for the world but in the Socialist Commonwealth.

At the same time, that "Socialism" in which the working class of Europe so confidently trusted to avoid a world war, went down like a house of cards before the first serious onslaught of international capitalism. **The Second International joined the Army!** Bewildered and betrayed, the workers were divided and conquered, hurled into the trenches, to slaughter and be slaughtered.

"Moderate Socialism" revealed itself in its true colors. Having adopted the tactics of parliamentary action within the capitalist state, the "Moderate Socialist" leaders found themselves forced to uphold capitalism in its grand climactic crime, and consoled themselves by preaching that the War was the last great "reform"—a step in that slow and peaceful evolution from autocracy to parliamentary democracy, and then to Socialism, in which they believed.

Obsessed with this theory, they beheld the disillusioned proletariat rising to overthrow the parliamentary state, between whom and the Kaiser the workers saw little to choose. And the "Moderate Socialists," in Russia and Germany, found themselves on the capitalist side of the barricades, shooting down workers to preserve their petit bourgeois theories.

Capitalism is bankrupt. And "Moderate Socialism," an integral part of the capitalist system, is also bankrupt. Therefore the question of "moderate versus revolutionary Socialism" is no longer debatable. The sum and substance of parliamentary democracy is the World War, now happily ended with all the belligerents defeated—and among them, the "Moderate Socialists."

The workers know now that only by means of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat can they achieve their ends. And the experience of the Russian Soviet Republic, attacked on all sides by the combined capitalists of the world, has shown brilliantly that only the destruction of the capitalist forms of government, and the erection of a new

proletarian state, can guarantee the workers' revolutionary victories.

The American Socialist Party, although its different currents have not been as clearly defined as those of European countries, has been for years controlled by petit bourgeois elements. It has compromised with bourgeois Liberalism to a point where its campaign literature, and the writings of its leaders, sounded like a movement to return to Jeffersonian Democracy; it has pushed reformism to a point where the Progressive Party could safely adopt planks from its platform; it has entangled itself with capitalist parliamentarism to the point where Meyer London could support the war and still be renominated—where Socialist Aldermen could vote for Liberty Bonds and still be asked to speak at official Party meeting to greet the proletarian revolutions in Europe—where a Socialist Mayor could join Gompers' Alliance for Labor and Democracy, and not be censured.

The Non-Partisan League, the Labor Party, the League of Free Nations, the People's Council—to the support of all these our Socialist leaders instinctively rush—to the support of everything except Revolutionary Socialism. They greet Kerensky as a revolutionary proletarian; they endorse the Ebert-Scheidemann Government as a "Socialist" Government; they hasten to send delegates to the Berne Conference of social-patriots, who are as responsible for the war as Wilhelm.

We of the Left Wing declare that we repudiate "Moderate Socialism" and all its bourgeois affiliations, whose activities, however sincerely meant, are nevertheless directed toward patching up the capitalist system and avoiding the Social Revolution. We demand that the American Socialist Party adopt this attitude.

We take our stand with the Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik), with the Spartacists of Germany, and the Communists of Hungary and Bavaria, believing that only through the Dictatorship of the Proletariat can the Socialist order be brought about.

And in token of our position, we have named our official organ **The New York Communist**.

Why the New York Communist?

WHY does the New York Left Wing establish another paper? Isn't **The Revolutionary Age** enough to represent the Left Wing? Are we fighting **The Revolutionary Age**? If not, if we intend to publish a paper which cannot compete with **The Revolutionary Age**, why do we call it **The New York Communist**? All over the country a multitude of little Socialist papers is springing up, all professedly advocating Left Wing principles and tactics. With the resources of the Left Wing so weak, why do we divide our forces still further?

First, let us make our bow to **The Revolutionary Age**, which, with the support of Local Boston, and under the brilliant editorship of Comrade Louis Fraina, has, from the beginning, been the best expression of revolutionary Socialism ever published in this country—and indeed, has created a new type of Socialist journalism here.

The Revolutionary Age is to be, without any doubt, the official organ of the National Left Wing, which will be created by the National Left Wing Conference. This is made more certain by the generosity of the

Comrades of Local Boston, who have passed a resolution providing that the paper, with all its assets, shall be turned over to the Executive Committee of the Left Wing as soon as it shall be constituted.

But in the meanwhile, the New York Left Wing, which has taken the initiative in forming a National Left Wing by issuing its Manifesto and Program, has no organ of its own. **The Revolutionary Age** cannot fill our needs. It is the organ of Local Boston; so far it has confined itself largely to being "A Chronicle and Interpretation of Events in Europe"; it has no space, nor should it have, for the details of our fight here in New York; and it is published two hundred and fifty miles away.

The Left Wing organized in New York. In New York, with its thousands of Party members, the Left Wing is fighting for control of the local Party machinery, against a fierce and unscrupulous resistance by the petty politicians who direct the Party machine. **The Revolutionary Age** has contributed enormously to the education of the rank and file in New York; but we need a paper here.

After all, New York is the citadel of Right Wing resistance. As long as the entire machinery of the Party is not in our hands, a New York Left Wing paper is essential.

Be it understood, however, that **The New York Communist**, as it now stands, is a more or less temporary affair. When **The Revolutionary Age** is turned over to the Central Committee of the Left Wing, **The New York Communist** will probably combine with it, as we hope other Left Wing organs will, into a national weekly interpreting and expressing the revolutionary class-conscious proletariat of the United States, interpreting revolutionary events in Europe, and conducting an active propaganda for Socialism among the American workers.

At the present time we must strengthen and spread our Left Wing propaganda among Party members everywhere. For that reason the more Left Wing papers, the merrier—so long as they hold to true Left Wing principles.

Kate Richards O'Hara has entered Jefferson City prison to serve her sentence of five years—if the American working class stands for it. The war is over. In no other country in the world would the government now dare to imprison a working class champion for expressing anti-war opinions. Only our economic powerlessness makes us powerless to rebuke the insolence of the master class. Before the American Socialist Party can remedy such evils, it must enlist the economic power of the workers.

All Socialist news for **The New York Communist** should be received at the office at 43 West 29th Street not later than **Tuesday evening at 6 P. M.**

Comrades everywhere are requested to send us reports of all Branch and Local meetings, and all Central and Executive Committee meetings, at which action is taken upon the Left Wing Manifesto and Program; or at which matters of interest to members of the Left Wing are acted upon.