

Department for Agitation and Education

Edited by
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Facts for Speakers

(Clip for your note book)

LABOR FACT BOOK, VOL. 2

(International Publishers, New York) is now off the press and it provides some fine new "fit-tin's" for your speaker's "knapsack" (as one comrade terms her notebook). A glance at the contents alone will make you want to have a copy.

SOME QUESTIONS

Here are some questions to which you will find the answers in the Labor Fact Book, Vol. 2:

What is the R. F. C.? And who received the benefit of its loans of \$2,483,000,000 up to February, 1933, and additionally, \$559,100,000 between March 1st and December 31st, 1933?

How is the NRA pressing the small business men out of the capitalist class and into the ranks of the working class? How is the attempt being made to drive the standard of living of the workers to lower levels?

What is the Roosevelt program for the crisis? What are the elements of Fascism in the Roosevelt program? And WHAT IS THE WORKERS' REPLY?

SOME ANSWERS

We quote some facts to answer other questions which you might have in mind:

UNEMPLOYED

"Nearly 16 million . . . were still unemployed in the U. S. in November, 1933, according to the latest estimate made by the Labor Research Association."

PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYED

"On the basis of statistics compiled by the Census of Manufactures, Frederick C. Mills of the National Bureau of Economic Research, author of 'Economic Tendencies in the United States,' recently estimated that:

"In 1932 OUTPUT PER MAN-HOUR in manufacturing plants appears to have been 20% greater than in 1927 and 12% greater than in 1929."

WAGES

"Average earnings in 15 industrial groups including 73 manufacturing industries" were \$19.25 a week in Nov., 1933, compared with \$19.04 in Nov., 1932. A RISE OF ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN 1%.

COST OF LIVING

"Workers' COST OF LIVING ROSE 5.2% during the six months from June, 1933, to December, 1933, according to official figures from the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics."

"An even greater rise in the cost of living, between March, 1933, and the close of the year

is shown in the monthly index of the National Industrial Conference Board. In this period, LIVING COSTS ROSE 7.6%."

OTHER EFFECTS OF CRISIS

The effect of the crisis on the workers' health, housing and homelessness, mental health and suicide rate, death from starvation, lack of social insurance, are dealt with. The chapter also treats briefly with H. R. 7598 (Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill).

TRADE UNION FACTS

Comrades speaking on trade union questions will find especially good data on the AF of L, the TUUL, Independent unions, strikes, etc.

THE NEGRO WORKERS

A graphic picture of the conditions of the 12,000,000 Negroes in the United States is pieced together by facts on population, occupation, unemployment, discrimination and persecution and on the cultural status of the Negro. A brief summary of facts about the League of Struggle for Negro Rights concludes this chapter.

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

The net cash income per family on U. S. farms according to a U. S. Dept. of Agriculture publication, shows the following sharp drop:

1929	1930	1931	1932
\$564	\$327	\$197	\$116

For lack of space we omit very interesting figures on standard of living of the farmers, increase in tenancy, forced sales and mortgages, the AAA, the United Farmers League, etc.

STANDARD OF LIVING UNDER FASCISM

"With the exception of Germany, Italy now has the lowest living standard of workers of any European country."

"In the face of reduced wages, prohibitive tariffs have raised prices so that real wages are lower today in Germany than they have been in fifty years" (Harrison Brown, Current History, March, 1934).

FASCIST TRENDS IN U. S.

Some of the estimated 100 Fascist organizations organized in the U. S. mentioned in the Labor Fact Book are: Silver Shirts, Khaki Shirts, Order of Liberty (White Shirts), National Watchmen, Nationalists, American Blue Corps, Constitutional Educational League, and various Nazi groups.

(To be concluded in the next "Facts" column).

Fundamentals of a Communist Political Education

Lesson 14

Strategy and Tactics—Party and the Working Class—The Allies of the Proletariat—The Working Class As the Emancipator of the Whole Human Race—Negro, Agricultural and Colonial Masses.

The success of the Communist movement for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a workers and farmers government presupposes first of all: the existence in the country of a strong, disciplined Communist Party, hardened and experienced in the struggle; centralized in its political authority; but with great initiative from its rank and file, and above all, with each member and unit of the Communist Party having mass influence over considerable masses of the workers.

Emancipation of Entire Humanity.

We have already seen how capitalism in its present decadent stage exerts a decadent and degenerating influence upon all cultural and social institutions, driving humanity backwards instead of forwards, and it is because the working-class and its allies are the bearers of the struggle to overthrow capitalism; they are thereby also the bearers of the cultural and social liberation of the human race. All elements in other classes of society (professional, cultural workers, and other similar groups) who understand the culturally decadent role of capitalism, can only make an effective contribution to advancing the cultural needs of the human race by aligning themselves with and subordinating themselves to the basic leadership of the revolutionary struggles to overthrow capitalism, namely, the working-class. It is by placing their own talents at the disposal of the revolutionary working class movement, under the leadership of the Communist Party, and by constantly carrying on a campaign to win their fellows to this same alliance with the working-class, that all other groups can perform a truly revolutionary role.

Allies of Revolution

In order to fulfill this historic mission, the Communist Party must first of all set itself to accomplish the following fundamental strategic ends: Extend its influence over the MAJORITY OF ITS OWN CLASS including working-class women and working youth. The Communist Party must win the broad masses of workers organized in Trade Unions, fraternal societies, social and literary societies, etc. The achievement of its goal presupposes also that the revolutionary workers under the leadership of

the Communist Party must be able to extend its influence over wide masses of the rural population, including the agricultural laborers, the poor farmers, and at least to neutralize large sections of the middle farmers. The fulfillment of all these tasks by the working-class also is an essential condition PRECEDENT to the victorious Communist revolution.

Win the Negro Masses.

In the United States, high on the order of tasks to be achieved, as a condition precedent to a victorious Communist revolution, is the winning of the about fourteen million Negro people who stand oppressed both as toilers and also because of their peculiar racial and national position. In the Southeastern United States, there is a large area which has a majority of Negro population. Despite this, Negroes in this area are largely denied any political rights. The proletarian revolutionary movement cannot achieve its own emancipation without the emancipation of the Negro people and the revolutionary movement will fight for their right to determine how they wish to be governed. This self-determination by the Negro people themselves should be unconditional. It will, of course, be the task of the Negro Communists leading the most revolutionary sections of this Negro population, to lead them towards establishing a government of workers and farmers councils (soviet government). For the rest of the country, emancipating the Negro people means that they shall have full economic, political and social equality, and that no special rules or discrimination be made concerning them simply because they are Negroes, except as is necessary to remove the discriminatory practices and measures established by the capitalist class. The Communist Party must carry on constant struggle against chauvinism. White chauvinism is the ideology of many white workers who believe capitalist propaganda about the inferiority of the Negro people. This capitalist propaganda is aimed to split the workers and as one measure to unite black and white workers, the struggle against white chauvinism is an absolute prerequisite. But also, there must be a struggle against

the capitalist ideas in the ranks of the Negro population. This fight falls chiefly on the shoulders of the Negro Communists, who must constantly fight down the influence of such capitalist organizations of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, who help the policy of the ruling class by urging such measures for the Negro people as will continue their isolation from the white people.

The Colonial Revolution.

In its struggle for the overthrow of capitalism, the revolutionary working-class finds extremely strong and natural allies in the colonies, the semi-colonies and the dependent, smaller countries who are in a constant struggle against the extreme oppression of the finance capitalist class of the imperialist countries. Thus, the American working-class finds its natural allies in the revolutionary workers and farmers of the Philippines, Caribbean countries, Hawaii, South America, etc. It is the task of the Communist Party of the United States in order to strengthen that alliance, to constantly fight for the complete and immediate independence of all colonial countries.

Flexibility of Tactics.

In determining its line of tactics, each Communist Party must take into account the concrete internal and external situation, the correlation of class forces, the degree of stability and the strength of the bourgeoisie; the degree of preparedness of the proletariat, the position taken up by the various intermediary strata in its country, etc. The Party determines its slogans and its methods of struggle in accordance with these circumstances, with the view to organizing the mobilizing of the masses on the broadest possible scale and on the highest possible level of this struggle.

When a revolutionary situation is near maturing the Party advances certain transitional slogans and partial demands corresponding to the concrete situation; demands and slogans must be bent to the revolutionary aim of capturing power and of overthrowing bourgeois capitalist society. The Party must neither stand aloof from the daily needs and struggles of the working class nor confine its activities exclusively to them. The task of the Party is to utilize these minor every-day needs as a starting point from which to lead the working-class to the revolutionary struggle for power.

When the ruling classes are disorganized, the masses are in a state of revolutionary ferment, the intermediary strata

are inclining toward the proletariat and the masses are ready for action and for sacrifices, the Party of the proletariat is confronted with the task of leading the masses to a direct attack upon the bourgeois state. This it does by carrying on propaganda in favor of increasingly radical transitional slogans (for Soviets, workers' control of industry, for peasant committees for the seizure of the big landed properties, for disarming the proletariat, etc.) and by organizing mass action, upon which all the branches of Party agitation and propaganda, including parliamentary activity, must be concentrated. This mass action includes: a combination of strikes and demonstrations; a combination of strikes and armed demonstrations and finally, the general strike jointly with armed insurrection against the state power of the bourgeoisie. The latter form of struggle, which is the supreme form, must be conducted according to the rules of war; it presupposes a plan of campaign; offensive fighting operations; and unbounded devotion and heroism on the part of the proletariat. An absolutely essential condition precedent for

Literature and . . . Book Reviews

"BOWS AGAINST THE BARONS," by Geoffrey Trease. The real story of Robin Hood, price \$5 cents. Have you a young boy or girl in your home? Have you a young brother, sister or friend, if so you should be sure and get them a copy of this very interesting story of one of their favorite heroes. In reading the bourgeois version of this famous outlaw of the middle ages they are left with the erroneous impression that Robin Hood and his followers were outlaws just for the fun of it, and that their only aim was to have a good time, have archery and wrestling bouts and to rob a rich baron or a rich bishop occasionally. They are impressed with the glamor of the courts of the nobles and by their chivalrous treatment of the fair ladies of the court.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The barons and the officials of the church were the worst lot of exploiters and cut-throats one can imagine. They took everything that they possibly could from the poor serfs who worked on the soil and also from the so-called freemen and artisans who worked and lived in the cities. Robin Hood was not just an outlaw. He was the leader of the dispossessed and disinherited of England, the sturdy Anglo-Saxon peasantry and workers who were hounded off their common lands and from their small shops, harried and robbed by the feudal barons and the wealthy princes of the church. The struggles of Robin and his band to throw off this yoke of oppression places them with those militant leaders who throughout the ages have fought and sacrificed to help the masses. The story is bright and lively, written in a way that boys and girls of all ages will enjoy and understand.

"THE ROAD TO NEGRO LIBERATION," by Harry Haywood, price 10c. Here is the newest addition to the pamphlets on the Eighth Convention of the Communist Party of the U. S. A. The best pamphlet we have had yet on the tasks of the Communist Party in winning working class leadership of the Negro liberation struggles, and the fight against white chauvinism and against nationalist-reformist movements among the Negro people. Here we have a real program for work in building the L. S. N. R. (League of Struggle for Negro Rights) and the building of opposition groups in all important reformist and petty bourgeois nationalist mass organizations. This pamphlet brings out lessons learned in many years of work among the Negro masses and places the work on a much higher level.

OTHER CONVENTION PAMPHLETS

"REPORT TO THE EIGHTH CONVENTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE U. S. A.," by Earl Browder, price 10c.

"THE WAY OUT." A program for American labor. Manifesto, and principal resolutions adopted by the eighth convention of the Communist Party of the U. S. A., Price 10c.

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this form of action is the organization of the broad masses into militant units, which, by their very form, embrace and set into action the largest possible number of toilers (Councils of Workers' Deputies, Soldiers' Councils, etc.), and intensified revolutionary work in the army and the navy.

In passing over to now, and more radical slogans, the Parties must be guided by the fundamental role of the political tactics of Leninism, which call for ability to lead the masses to revolutionary positions in such a manner that the masses may, by their own experience, convince themselves of the correctness of the Party line. Failure to observe this rule must inevitably lead to isolation from the masses, to pusillanimity, to the ideological degeneration of Communism into "Leftist" dogmatism and to petty-bourgeois "revolutionary" adventurism.

When the revolutionary tide is not rising, the Communist Parties must advance partial slogans and demands that correspond to the everyday needs of the toilers, and combine them with the fundamental tasks of the Communist International. The Communist Parties must not, however, at such a time, advance transitional slogans that are applicable only to revolutionary situations (for example, workers' control of industry, etc.). Partial demands and slogans generally form an essential part of correct tactics; but certain transitional slogans go inseparably

Duty of a Communist.

It is the bounden duty of every Communist to belong to a trade union, even a most reactionary one, provided it is a mass organization. Only by constant and most persistent work in the trade unions and in the factories for the steadfast and energetic defense of the interests of the workers, together with ruthless struggle against the reformist bureaucracy, will it be possible to win the leadership in the workers' struggle, and to win the industrially-organized workers over to the side of the Party. Unlike the reformists, whose policy it is to split the trade unionists, the Communists defend trade union unity nationally and internationally on the basis of the class struggle, and render every support to, and strengthen the work of the Trade Union Unity League.

End of Lesson 14.

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