

The DAILY WORKER--A Communist Builder

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE Workers Party is a young party. Whilst development has been comparatively rapid, it has still a long road to travel before it can be called a Bolshevik party in the full sense of the term. Particularly our party is weak organizationally. It is not firmly knit together, nor is it sufficiently mobile and responsive to its tasks. During the party's existence we have conducted much important and successful activity on the economic and political fields. Consequently we have been able to wield a great amount of influence upon the ideology and struggles of the American working class. But in all of our activity during these years of persistent and energetic work, the party has not made the progress that it should have done in building up the size of our membership and in welding what members we have into a compact and cohesive whole.

Our party's organizational weakness are to the greatest extent responsible for our failure to take the maximum advantage of the opportunities created by our activities, to build up the size and strength of our party. One reason for this is that our party lacks capable organizers. We have not developed organizers to any degree commensurate with our development in other directions. Yet there is no lack of material in the party out of which organizers may be produced. In personal contacts which I have made practically everywhere in the country, I have become acquainted with many comrades who have the inherent qualities which go to make the most competent organizers. But in most cases these comrades are not developing these abilities nor are they applying them effectively towards the building of our party.

In the first anniversary issue of the DAILY WORKER it is particularly appropriate to point out the field opened up to us by our English language daily paper for the development of organizers and for the organization of our party. Obviously one of the best ways to build the membership of the party is by building the circulation of the DAILY WORKER. In fact it is so obvious that in all too many instances this way of making the party grow has been overlooked altogether. But, although it is quite generally understood that by building the DAILY WORKER we are also building the Workers Party, it is not so generally understood that in extending the circulation of the DAILY WORKER there is an open road to the development of organizers for our party.

Organizers are not born. They are made. They are products of active participation in the daily struggle. They are made in the process of doing real organization work. In our party we will develop the necessary organizers by putting the membership, so far as possible, systematically to work upon organizational tasks. There is no better school for organizers than in the building of the DAILY WORKER. This does not consist of filling the columns of the DAILY WORKER with theories of organization, but in putting effective theories into practice by the organized selling of DAILY WORKER subscriptions.

Here, in the building of the circulation of the DAILY WORKER, lies a field for the development of Communist organizers, which is open to every member of our party. In the performance of the systematic work necessary

to the effective sale of DAILY WORKER subscriptions, and for that matter the sale of any of our party press subscriptions, there is called into play the qualities which go to make real organizers and propagandists.

In building the DAILY WORKER circulation we approach non-party workers, workers who are not class conscious. We tell them about the DAILY WORKER and ask them to subscribe. We must explain to them at least the main essentials of the class struggle. We must overcome objections, prove the advantages and necessity of organization, of working class struggle against the boss and his pliant tools, the trade union bureaucrats. We must exploit the growing revolt of these workers. We must connect up our paper and our party with these workers by making the DAILY WORKER the spokesman and champion of their grievances. All this must be done upon the most far-reaching scale and in the most systematic manner possible.

Such work is getting down to fundamentals. It means real contact with the masses. By carrying it on aggressively and persistently we build up our self-confidence and our ability to give expression to Communist principles. In other words, we develop

ourselves into organizers. In subscription campaigns the immediate goal to achieve is, of course, to extend the circulation of the DAILY WORKER. But this is by no means the only advantage to be gained. By the very act of trying to sell such subscriptions, whether he succeeds or not, the comrade in question is not only doing missionary work for Communism, but is also gaining valuable organization experience.

The Workers Party membership must take seriously the necessity for mass participation in the work of spreading the DAILY WORKER. The building of our great English language daily must ever and always be kept in the foreground of our program as one of the most important tasks confronting our party. A DAILY WORKER with a great circulation means tremendous strides towards the building of our organization into a mass Communist Party, a Bolshevized Party, a party of organizers and leaders. Let us work to the end that when the second anniversary of the DAILY WORKER arrives we will have a vast network of organizers and militants throughout the party working ceaselessly to extend the circulation and influence of our paper amongst the struggling masses.

LABOR DEFENSE COUNCIL RAISES SLOGAN, "STAND FAST AND FIGHT" FOR 32 MICHIGAN DEFENDANTS

STAND FAST AND FIGHT!

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS PARTY:
TO ALL WORKING CLASS ORGANIZATIONS:
TO ALL BELIEVERS IN FREE SPEECH FOR WORKERS:

The executive secretary of the Workers Party, C. E. Ruthenberg, is in jail. Robert Minor, Communist cartoonist and writer, has been notified that he will be brought to trial within a few weeks. Thirty other party members will be tried as fast as possible. The prosecuting attorneys in Michigan, with all the labor-hating bootlickers of capitalism at their backs, are preparing themselves for new and more vicious assaults.

The Workers (Communist) Party faces a critical situation.

Prosecuting Attorney Bookwalter has already declared that he wishes to try the remaining defendants in the Michigan cases in gangs, instead of

one at a time. We intend to prevent this. But it is clear that the Michigan authorities are preparing for more trials to follow on the heels of that of Comrade Minor. The bribed officials of capitalism state openly state that they will put William Z. Foster behind prison bars. They have already laid their plans for the trial of William F. Dunne. Everyone of the 32 Communists indicted in Michigan is in immediate danger.

We are confronted with a desperate offensive against the entire Communist movement of America.

The leaders are attacked. The organization is threatened. Now, as never before, the Communists are called upon to show what stuff they are made of. With closed ranks and with undaunted courage, with whole-hearted devotion to our great cause, sparing no sacrifice or expense, we must stand and fight amidst the blows which the capitalist power is raining down upon us.

Why is it that the Michigan cases have been revived again, after months of delay, during which it appeared that they had been dropped? On all sides one sees signs of an awakening labor movement to meet the challenge of the lowered standard of living which capitalism is trying to force upon the workers. President Coolidge

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JIM ROE, WOBBLY, OVER 70 YEARS OLD, COMES OUT OF JAIL

(Special to The Daily Worker)

SAN FRANCISCO.—Old Jim Roe is out of jail. He has served his criminal syndicalism sentence and is free once more to look for a job and keep on working for industrial unionism. Roe is over 70, crippled with rheumatism, obliged to spend all his time in San Quentin in the "old men's ward" in the hospital. But his spirit is just as eager and his loyalty as firm as when he was arrested in Sacramento for selling I. W. W. papers and sent up for four years, one of the very first to be sentenced under the criminal syndicalism act.

While behind the bars he urged his friends to concentrate the amnesty campaign on younger men who could still be useful in the class struggle on being freed.

"Polikushka" is coming to Gertner's Independent Theater, Jan. 15.

Insure The Daily Worker for 1925