

The Collective Agitator, Propagandist and Organizer

By JOHN PEPPER

The Communist Party of Russia had 17,000 members on the eve of the March revolution in 1917.

The Workers Party of America today has about 20,000 members.

This shows the two Communist parties in their respective stages about equal numerically, but not equal politically. What is the difference between the Workers Party of America today and the Bolshevik Party of Russia on the eve of the Kerensky revolution?

The main difference is that the Bolsheviks were then already a MASS PARTY, although they had only 17,000 members, whereas the Workers Party is not a mass party as yet, despite its 20,000 members.

To be a mass party does NOT ALWAYS mean that a party must embrace hundreds of thousands in its ORGANIZATION; but it does always mean that it must have, deep roots within the masses, and that it must lead the masses in the daily struggle as well as to the barricades of the revolution.

IN THIS SENSE the Bolshevik Party of Russia, with its 17,000 members, was already a mass party. IN THIS SENSE the Workers Party, in spite of its 20,000 members, is still not a mass party.

Why is the Workers Party not a real mass party? Wherein does it fall short?

The Workers Party is not enough of a POLITICAL PARTY. The old sectarian spirit still lives in many comrades who fear that they will lose their Communist virginity in the political struggle.

The Workers Party is not UNI-

FORM enough. The work of the sixteen Language Federations is not sufficiently well coordinated.

The Workers Party is not enough AMERICAN. Many of our comrades do not see their greatest enemy in AMERICAN capitalism, and do not recognize the AMERICAN capitalist government as their deadly enemy.

The Workers Party is not enough COMMUNISTIC. There are comrades who see Marxism only as a collection of dogmas. There are comrades who do not know Marxism at all, and cannot see farther ahead than the daily trade union struggles.

The Workers Party needs to have a deeper POLITICAL INTEREST. The Workers Party needs a stricter CENTRALIZATION.

The Workers Party must concentrate its forces still more in the struggle against AMERICAN capitalism.

The Workers Party must have an intensive Communism; Marxian EDUCATION.

In other words, we need more AGITATION, more PROPAGANDA, more ORGANIZATION.

Our party has become so large today and the tasks which stand before us have grown so tremendously that the PRESENT INDIVIDUAL METHODS of agitation, propaganda and organization no longer suffice.

The Workers Party cannot grow and cannot accomplish its great tasks without new, mightier COLLECTIVE METHODS of agitation, propaganda and organization. Lenin, the greatest leader of the world proletariat, said:

THE PRESS IS A COLLECTIVE AGITATOR.

THE PRESS IS A COLLECTIVE PROPAGANDIST.

THE PRESS IS A COLLECTIVE ORGANIZER.

The Workers Party cannot grow and become a real mass party without the press, without a MIGHTY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY.

Only an ENGLISH DAILY can lead our party-comrades into the thick of the political life and struggle.

Only an ENGLISH DAILY can give the sixteen Federations a uniform ideology, and bring about the democratic centralization of our party.

Only an ENGLISH DAILY can really make the knowledge concerning the facts of American capitalism and mechanism of the American government into the common possession of every party member.

Only an ENGLISH DAILY, thru a Marxist and Communist education can turn the 20,000 party members into good Communists, and in addition can turn 20,000 sympathizers into Communists.

A grown-up man cannot wear children's shoes. A party which begins to develop into a real MASS PARTY can no longer get along with INDIVIDUAL methods of agitation, propaganda and organization. WE NEED THE ENGLISH DAILY. WE NEED THE POWERFUL COLLECTIVE AGITATOR, PROPAGANDIST AND ORGANIZER. Every Communist should put forth his entire energy as INDIVIDUAL agitator, propagandist and organizer, in order to build up the English daily, the COLLECTIVE agitator, propagandist and organizer.