

THE COMMUNIST YOUTH

Unity in the Movement of Proletarian Youth.

by *B. Ziegler.*

Every worker still recalls those frightful days of August 1914 with terror; those days in which the "powerful" International of workers' societies fell to pieces before the mowing sabre of the imperialists. Hundreds of thousands of proletarians who were thrown into the devouring international war machine by the colossus with feet of clay, had to repent with blood and life that they did not keep a sharper eye on their "leaders".

While everything sank in the bloody intoxication of a bacchanal war, one labor organization furnished an exception:

that was the "International Union of Socialist Youth", an organization founded under the protection of the Second International in 1907. It was the various groups of this International, who in a number of countries demonstrated against the war with all their power, be it ever so weak.

The very same groups were the ones which were ready for the first international labor conference against the war in 1915. While the Second International wallowed deep in the reformist swamp, in which it sank more and more, the International of Youth ascended the red bank, upon which the Third Communist International was later to be built.

One by one the single revolutionary groups freed themselves from the rotten body of the Second International, and began to fight the old parties. The Second International began to split. In order to achieve their goal, the groups tending towards the left had to shoulder the "curse of a destroyed solidarity of the proletarian front".

It was different with the International Youth which went its revolutionary way as a unit. Only insignificant groups refused to follow the main body; this they did against the will of the masses, as in France for example. Those who remained behind and declined to take part in the Berne Conference and to carry out its decisions were at once generally considered as not belonging to the movement.

The unity of the International Youth movement thus remained intact, when the solid mass of revolutionary associations of Youth also finally constituted themselves the "Communist International of Youth", and consummated its union with the Third International with correct historical judgment. Many, indeed almost all of the remaining organizations, which had not attended the Berlin-Congress, recognized this, and joined the only International of Youth, one after another. The stirring activity of the quickly growing Communist International of Youth, roused fear in the revived Second International and in the 2½ International which was founded in the meanwhile, and which saw their offspring endangered. In the spring of this year, the sad work of *splitting the International of Youth* was begun at a wink from above, by the split off remnants of several leagues of Youth which in recent months had turned communist, and by several large social-patriotic societies of Youth which never stood on the basis of the International, or had ignominiously betrayed its principles.

The ones, faithful children of the Vienna 2½ species did it "in the name of Unity". The others, the yellows, with every one of their clubs expressly reserving tactical freedom for themselves, and the right to defend their "Vaterland", had very loudly announced their aim, in order to be able at the right moment, to call their members to a fresh and merry fight against our comrades. The aim announced was: Fight against the International of Youth which follows the directions of the Communist International.

The unity of the International of Youth is thus broken. The followers of the Vienna muddle-heads and the darlings of the Amsterdam Yellows have won the sad fame of a split.

Occupied in the struggle for the growth and expansion of the Third International, perhaps the Communist Youth did not do enough to prevent these infamous destroyers from accomplishing their handiwork. Now however, after its second Congress, the Communist International of Youth will use all its power in re-establishing the old unity of proletarian youth. The traitorous groups supported by the old parties of course can not be entirely eliminated, but we do not for a moment doubt that the Communist International of Youth will succeed in reducing them to insignificance.

In the coming economic struggle, in which the social-patriots will make way for radical leadership, while the centrists will have to accept the Communist slogans, the young workers will open their eyes and realize who their true leaders are, who actually does anything for them, and whom they can trust.

The revolutionary susceptible working youth will now as ever recognize the revolutionary way as the only possible one, and in the new struggle for its International, it will give the working-class an example as to where *the unity in the proletarian movement* is to be found.

Unity per se can never be the goal we strive for. But in the struggles which the Youth faces at this moment, the struggle against reduction of wages, and against lengthening the working-hours and increasing misery, the absolute necessity for unity in the proletarian ranks will show itself. In these very struggles, it will be shown that no one is benefited by unity as such, and that *only unity on a communist revolutionary basis* can help the working-class.

We believe that is the duty of the young workers again to lead the way for the entire working-class, and to pave the way to the international Communist Unity of the fighting proletariat, by *reconquering revolutionary unity in the International of Youth*.

HELP FOR RUSSIA

Proletarian Relief-work in Poland

by L. Georges (Warsaw).

The relief work for the millions of starving people in Soviet Russia has become a revolutionary duty and a watchword for the working-class of all countries. From the very beginning the C. P. of Poland faced the difficult problem of developing an extensive and successful relief-action for the suffering Russian comrades — — — in Poland, a country where every betrayal of sympathy for the Soviet government leads directly to prison, and where the Socialist Party systematically works for the destruction of international solidarity. We set to work at once, although from the very beginning our action was met by a solid front of the enemy which stretched from the National-democrats to the "Socialists". The Polish Government which through its representative Aszkenazy at Geneva solemnly declared its readiness to aid any action for the starving in Soviet Russia, now places every obstacle in the way of the workers' relief-committee, and seeks to hinder it in its activity. On the other hand the Socialist press is carrying on a shameless propaganda against the Russian revolution and even surpasses the reactionary capitalist press in its insults against both of the Soviet Republics. The lackeys of the bourgeoisie are not ashamed to write, that: ". . . The Belsheviks themselves are mainly to be blamed for the famine . . . that the Russian proletariat is thrown into the abyss of starvation by their Communist standard-bearers . . ." A Communist relief-action, like those carried on in other European countries, would have been an absolute impossibility in Poland, where hundreds of our comrades are languishing in prison for their communist principles. It was therefore necessary to create a non-partisan Relief Committee, in which all those, who recognized their solidarity with Soviet Russia could work. The creation of such a workers' relief committee was decided upon by the Warsaw trade-union executive in September. This committee extended its activities further and further over the whole country, until to-day it works as a central committee with numerous branches, which are carrying on vigorous propaganda for the relief-work. Soon after it was founded, the relief committee turned to the executive of the socialist unions with the proposal to carry out the relief action together. A flat refusal was the answer given to it by the president of the labor-union executive, the P. P. S. leader Zulavski, who was brazen enough to demand the suspension of the activity of the workers' relief committee. The P. P. S. thus also sabotages the relief-work with all the means at its disposal. The spirit of solidarity on the part of the class-conscious workers shows itself to be stronger than the counter-revolutionary policy of the P. P. S. leaders. Up to this time numerous workers' meetings have been held, in which the Communist deputy, Dombal, also took part. At every one of these meetings resolutions were passed, requesting the workers to give up a day's wages for the Russian relief. The relief work is greatly hampered by the increasing unemployment and by the crisis in the textile and metal industries in which thousands of workers are daily thrown out of work. Considerable success is to be noted however. Up to the 1st of November over 5,000,000 Marks have been collected, although in many cities the collections began only recently. The difficulties which the relief committees have to overcome are daily becoming greater; the results of the collections are increasing, however, in spite of all threats and repression. The sums collected by the individual unions already amount to several hundred thousand marks, and new contributions are constantly flowing in. Thus for instance, the textile workers' union collected 62,000 marks, the office and commercial-employers' union collected 488,000 marks, the leather workers' union 624,000 marks, the printers' union 200,000 marks. Collections were made in numerous factories. The confederation of Jewish labor-unions has received contributions from 50 cities of Poland and Galicia.

In order to be able to appreciate the work accomplished by the relief committee, we must take into consideration the circumstances under which we must work in Poland. All the periodicals until now published by the worker's relief committee have been without exception confiscated by the police and their distribution forbidden, although no legal action could be formu-