



WORKERS AGE

A Paper Defending the Interests of the Workers and Farmers

Vol. 3, No. 8.

NEW YORK, N. Y. MAY 15, 1934.

PRICE 5 CENTS

A. F. of L. Claims 2 Million Growth

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Every one interested in problems of trade unionism was aware of the phenomenal growth of the American Federation of Labor during the last period. It is, however, gratifying to learn that a very considerable portion of the increase in membership has come through the chartering of federal locals.

Frank Morrison, Secretary of the A. F. of L. reports that since July 3, 1933 there have been chartered 1368 federal locals with a membership of 500,000. The significance of these figures becomes even greater when we think of the possibilities of these federal locals being developed into genuine industrial unions. A core of a half a million workers organized along industrial lines can become a powerful instrument for recasting the whole antiquated structure of the A. F. of L. The tasks of militants and progressives in such a situation must be evident to all.

Morrison points out in the statement that there also has been a great increase in membership in many of the national and international unions and concludes that the present organization drive will probably bring into the trade unions a greater number of workers than in any previous national organization drive. The organization drive of 1901 to 1904 resulted in 800,000 recruits and that if 1916 to 1920 increased the membership of the A. F. of L. by 2,000,000.

Shoe Workers Install Officers

BOSTON, Mass.

At the first meeting of the Executive Board of the United Shoe and Leather Workers Union, it was decided to elect an Assistant General Secretary. The unanimous choice was Israel Zimmerman, one of the outstanding leaders of the amalgamation movement which led to the organization of the United Shoe.

The newly elected officers and members of the General Executive Board were installed on May First at a public installation at Hotel Bradford, in the presence of 2,000 shoe workers. Israel Zimmerman, acted as master of ceremonies and administered the oath of office to William J. Mackesy, General Organizer, George A. Wilson, General Secretary-Treasurer and to the members of the General Executive Board.

The first meeting of the General Executive Board, lasting three days, concerned itself with the organization of the union apparatus. There were elected committees on Organization, Finance, Grievance and Appeals, Education and Press.

The Organization and Press Committees swung into action immediately. The former making plans for an immediate organization drive in Maine and New Hampshire and making detailed plans for a national organization drive on August 1, when practically all agreements expire. The press committee has decided to proceed with organizing the publication of a monthly magazine. The committee hopes to have the first issue off the press before the summer is over.



Jay Lovestone addressing the tens of thousands of workers at the Labor Demonstration in Madison Square on May First.

Courtesy of Rappaport Studios

Preparing the Next War

Hard on the heels of the Japanese pronouncement of a Monroe Doctrine of its own, in the Far East, comes now the bitter trade war between Great Britain and Japan, bringing that much closer the inevitable explosion which will start a new world carnage.

For over a year Japan and Great Britain had been dickering over a division of the world's markets, especially the markets for cotton and artificial silk. Japan, constantly strengthened by its rapid penetration of the Far East, encouraged by the impotence of the League of Nations in the face of its invasion of China and the establishment of its hegemony over Manchukuo, and utilizing the conflict of interests among the rest of the great imperialist powers,

Progressives Win in Knit-Goods Elections

New York City

A striking victory for the progressives was the result of the elections for delegates to the I.L.G.W.U. convention, held in Knitted Garment Workers Union Local 155, I.L.G.W.U., on Thursday, May 3. Three out of the four delegates elected were endorsed by the Progressive Group of Local 155. De Leo with 628 votes receiving the highest vote; Shaffer with 601; and Lerman with 585. Of the administration supporters, only J. H. Goldberg, the manager, was elected with 612 votes; the other three candidates were defeated. The two candidates of the so-called "Left" Rank and File Opposition slate trailed at the end, receiving only about 200 votes each. The total vote cast was 1354 out of a membership of about 4,000.

turned a deaf ear to Great Britain and continued its aggressive policy of economic penetration at the expense of other imperialist powers especially Great Britain.

Great Britain has now struck back with an import embargo against Japanese goods which will be far reaching in its effects not only in an economic sense but also in the sense of a regrouping of imperialist powers.

To grasp the importance of this embargo to Japan, one has but to note that the Japanese export of cotton piece goods had increased from 1,413,780,000 square yards in 1931 to 2,090,000,000. The present trade war threatens to topple the whole export structure. The undermining of this structure will bring with it serious internal repercussions because the increasing exports had served as a temporary stabilizing force for Japanese imperialism. Slight wonder therefore that the answer, of leading Japanese industrialists, is that "Japan must fight!"

That internationally this step of Great Britain is of major political consequence becomes clear even

ROUGH GOING FOR FASCISTS

VIENNA.—That anti-fascist sentiment is running high in Austria was dramatically illustrated to a group of Italian Fascists. The Associated Press reports that this motor cycle squadron encountered enormous difficulties. The roads were so thickly strewn with tacks that the squadron was 12 hours late arriving at Graz, Austria. Unconfirmed reports in Graz state that these fascists were attacked and had to fight their way thru.

from the debates in the House of Commons. Mr. Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, was very careful not to answer the question asked him on the floor of the House "whether the British government had been consulting with other countries, outside the empire, regarding Japanese competition in the field of trade." This was an indirect way of asking whether the United States had been approached, since the U.S.A. is feeling very keenly Japanese competition in Latin America. The relationship between the U.S.A. and Japan is bound to become sharpened since Japan will turn even more to Latin America as a dumping ground for its restricted exports.

The international politics of capitalism is the politics of trade and markets and from Von Clausewitz we learn that "war is a continuation of politics with other means."

In the Next Issue of The Workers Age

We begin a series of articles on Austria by Will Herberg.

A number of unpublished photographs will be run, showing actual scenes of fighting and executions of revolutionary fighters during the Austrian civil war.

The next issue will be almost exclusively an international issue. We will take up, in a number of articles, various phases of the communist and labor movements.

The last article by Jay Lovestone, on the Roosevelt Program will be printed in an early issue. DON'T MISS THESE ARTICLES

Mooney in New Court Appeal

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.

The case of Tom Mooney, which has agitated the labor movement ever since his framed conviction eighteen years ago, is again before the public eye.

The attorney for the Molder's Defense Committee, has filed a petition in the United States Court for the Northern District of California, for Mooney's release on a writ of habeas corpus. The petition will come up before District Judge A. F. St. Sure.

The petition includes statements of the ten surviving jurors to the effect that they would never have convicted Mooney had they been aware of the subsequently discovered evidence, which the District Attorney had suppressed. Judge Griffin, the trial judge, is quoted as saying that "had the jury nevertheless convicted Mooney he would have set the conviction aside."

The petition exposes in full the perjury and suppression of evidence by means of which District Attorney Fickert secured a conviction and points out that at a later date, with full information available, two separate juries refused to indict Rena Mooney and Weinberg.

Silk Men Elected Keller as Mgr.

PATERSON, N. J.

Eli Keller, well known militant fighter among the textile workers, has been elected Manager of the Associated Silk Workers Union in a general election held here on Saturday, May 5th. Keller was the candidate of the Progressive Group.

There were two other candidates in the field. Brooks, a discredited element in Paterson who recently broke the decision of the Union Executive and agreed to a 3% cut, was the candidate of the reactionaries as well as of the American Workers Party. The polling a considerable vote he was defeated. The candidate of the Communist party was Nathan Liss. He polled an insignificant number of votes primarily because the silk workers still remember the union smashing antics engaged in by the CP and its National Textile Workers Union, in the recent general strike.

PATERSON, N. J.

With the sanction of the Silk Code Authority, the silk manufacturers have declared a holiday between May 14 and 21. This, the Code Authority declares, is a means of combatting overproduction.

The American Federation of Silk Workers has announced that it intends to utilize this "holiday" for a most intensive organization drive throughout the silk industry, especially in the Pennsylvania silk regions. This is made essential, because the employers are utilizing the lower rates paid in the Pennsylvania mills in order to batter down the condition of the silk workers in Paterson. In a statement issued by Frank Schweitzer, secretary of the Federation, it is said that the union is prepared to bring the Pennsylvania workers out on strike if the bosses do not raise the rates of pay.

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Portrait of America
By Diego Rivera
Text by Bert Wolfe

Proceeds go to
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The Group at Work

by D. Benjamin

Our recently organized Dressmakers Unit is very much alive. 30 new recruits, from the ranks of the fighting dressmakers, have joined up in the last two weeks. Among these are to be found Negro, Spanish, Italian and Jewish workers. These workers who have become acquainted with the CPO during the militant struggles of the dressmakers are now amongst our most active and enthusiastic supporters. This accession of strength is a demonstration of our growing influence among trade unionists. The new recruits also indicate that our comrades are beginning to take seriously the task of building the CPO.

Two New Units Formed
The last couple of weeks have also brought the organization of two new units, in Newark and i. Hamilton. The CPO is thus extending its influence into new territory. The National Bureau welcomes these two organizations to our ranks and pledges to them its full cooperation.

Membership Drive Forges Ahead
Many districts are hard at work fulfilling their quotas in the membership drive. The New York District has taken in 100 new members since the National Convention held in January. Chicago reports 6 recruits in the last couple of weeks. Recruiting is also beginning in Fort Wayne, Philadelphia and Brookwood. A large number of units, however, have not yet shown the necessary results. This applies to Boston, Detroit, Hartford, Los Angeles, Antracite, Montreal and Toronto. All units must intensify their work to complete their quotas by June first.

Detroit Building Workers Age
Detroit has done some model work in spreading the Workers Age. Every issue marks an increase in sales. The Detroit comrades have already paid for 350 copies of the May Day issue. The great bulk of the sales are being made among automobile workers. The unit is also doing satisfactory work in securing subs. With the excellent response which the Age is receiving, our Detroit comrades should have no difficulties in extending our organization.

New York Shows Progress
Comrades Edwards and Tauber have been doing excellent work in increasing Age circulation. Comrade Edwards has built up a well-

THE SOCIALIST ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

New York City. The anti-war movement is in a sad state. The American League Against War and Fascism was narrow enough before the Madison Square Garden affair; but after this event a whole series of resignations occurred. The League was then stripped of what little non-CP support it had. A few new names have recently been added but essentially the situation remains the same. What is needed is a thorough overhauling of the methods, approach and premise upon which the League rests. This the CP is not likely to do.

Even worse is it with the Socialist efforts to launch a "new" movement. The conference held in Town Hall on April 6, was a still birth. It resolved itself into a very poorly attended mass meeting which listened to number of very dull and rank pacifist speeches.

The running of this conference marks a new high water mark for bureaucracy and throttling control. So fearful were the Socialists that control would somehow be snatched from them that the chairman announced, in opening the conference, that discussion, questions,

(Continued on Page 3)

functioning apparatus — more meetings are being covered and the fractions have been responding well. Especially is this true of our dressmakers among whom Eva Selacher and Rose Cohen are doing particularly fine work. The circulation of the Age in New York has increased by almost 40%.

Boston Helps I.R.A.
Our Boston comrades have assisted the International Relief Association in organizing a banquet for the benefit of the victims of German Fascism. Over 100 attended, many of these shoe workers. About \$30.00 realized from this affair was immediately sent to the I.R.A. This follows the good example set by the Montreal comrades who turned over \$85 to the I.R.A. a short time ago.

Montreal Strong On Education
The Workers Educational Club, in which many CPO members are active, has been doing good work. As a result it has at present a regular membership of 40. Comrade Mike Buhay is conducting a successful class in the "Principles Of The Class Struggle", which has an attendance of 90.

Successful CPO Forums In Bronx
Over 300 workers attended the lecture by Comrade Lovestone on "What Next For American Labor". There was an exceptionally good turnout of needle trades workers, CP and SP members, of whom many asked questions and participated in the discussion. In response to an appeal by Comrade Benjamin to join in the

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50 Pages 35c a copy

published quarterly by the

Communist Party U.S.A. (Opposition)

51 West 14th Street — New York, N. Y.

struggle for communist unity, 3 workers joined the CPO. This meeting was followed by a Sunday morning forum at which Comrade Ben Lifshitz spoke on "The United Front". This was the first of a series of forums to be run by the Bronx Section of the CPO.

Big Membership Meeting In N. Y.
In spite of conflicting meetings necessitating the absence of many comrades, the Rivera Hall was filled to overflowing. Comrade Sutter evaluated the results of the National Elections in the United Shoe and Comrade Sasha Zimmerman reported on the elections in Local 22, I.L.G.W.U.

Comrades Miles and Stone reported on the developments and preparations for the May Day Conference and parade. The membership welcomed into its ranks the 30 dressmakers who joined the CPO and greeted the return to our fighting ranks of Comrade Joe Farber, who had been in a hospital for weeks as a result of a slugging at the hands of a strong arm squad of the Industrial Union.

With rapt attention the membership listened to Comrade Lovestone who read a letter, which had just been received, from the first convention of the Communist Party of Germany (Opposition). After a collection of \$130 was made it was decided to send half of this sum to our German comrades, as a token of our solidarity and appreciation of the difficult conditions under which our comrades are fighting in the land of Hitler terror.

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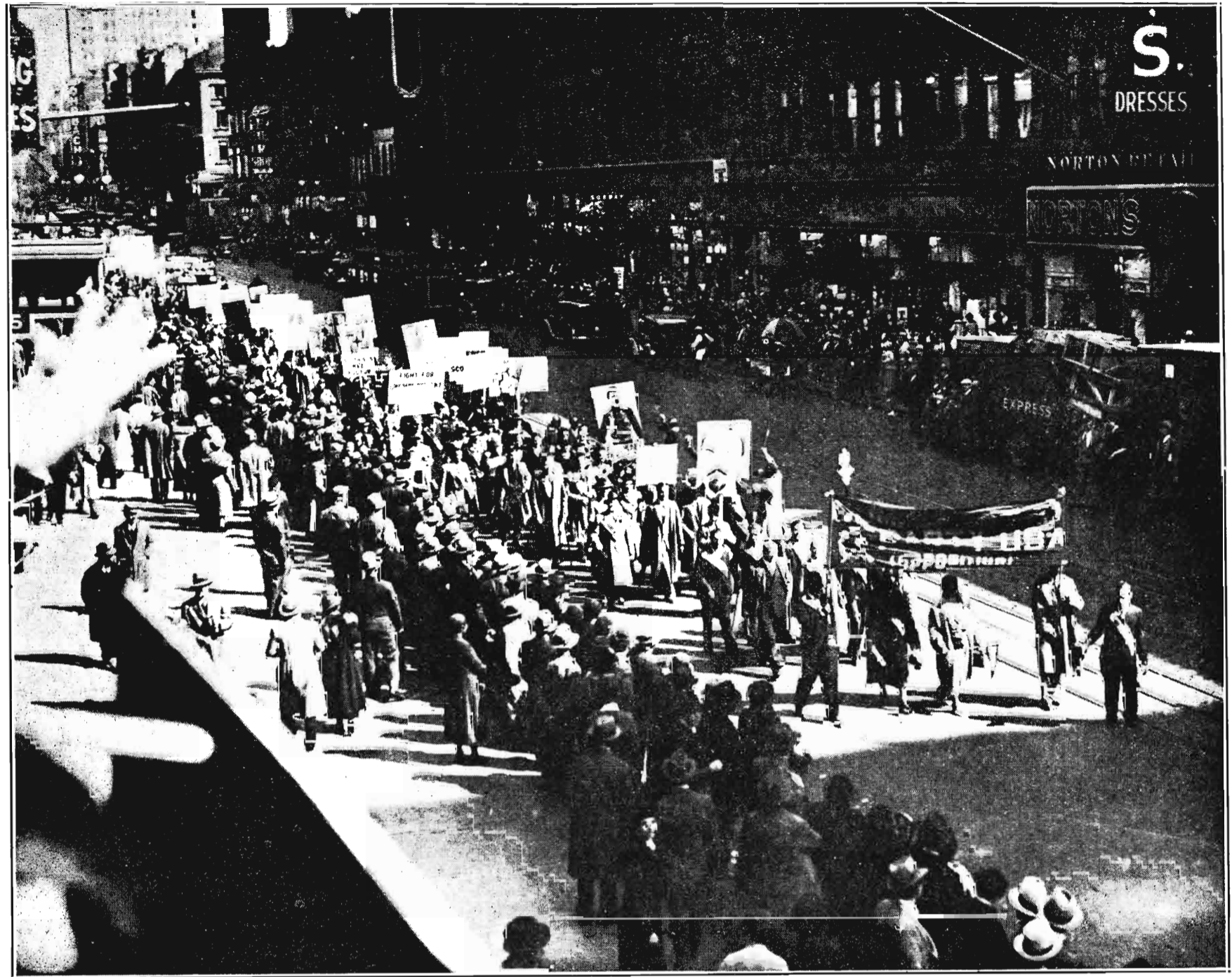
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Courtesy of Rappaport Studios

The Communist Party (Opposition) contingent, in the big Labor Parade on May First, snapped as it passed the C.P.O. headquarters on 14th Street.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

by EDWARD WRIGHT

Christ is risen!

It is Easter Sunday, the day of the big parade. And on brilliant and luxurious Fifth Avenue, paved with the bones of those who have perished in times of war and in times of peace, of those who have wanted and those who have hungered, march the four hundred.

They have just come out of the churches where God, Christ and Company have been snowered again with praises and flowers to the accompaniment of inspirational hymns: "O god, blessed be Thy eternal Name! Thy Kingdom come and so have our Millions. Still greater glory to Thee! Guide us with Thy holy wisdom, O God, that we may erect still more beautiful houses of . . . worship to lead us forever on the path of divine righteousness. O Lord, give us this day our daily million as Thou hast done in the past. Amen!"

The parade begins. A colorful pageant of the ultimate in fashions is unfurled. Top hats, morning coats and striped trousers mingle with frocks of imported plaid taffeta and gardenia-trimmed coats beneath innumerable Cartwheels and chocolate-box-cover hats. One . . . One . . . two . . . Slowly they march with their silver-handled canes. Every step is measured, studied, just so. Every motion, every look, every expression on their faces is just so.

Their steady gait reflects the absolute self-confidence and composure in which they live. It is their America. Everything is theirs—from the most magnificent and palatial to fire-traps where periodically are left, as an heritage to culture, lifeless, unrecognizable charred bodies of workers. There is not a whim too fantastic, a desire too vigor of proletarian audacity

lustful they cannot most graciously gratify. And class-conscious to the extreme their arrogance displays, as from a throne, the firm control they wield over the weak. And having come to be admired by those still illusioned and still ambitious to join their ranks, who stand in awe at the passing four hundred, they adjust their lips to the semblance of a smile: the smile of a king to his serfs.

Then suddenly, a wave of uneasiness seizes the crowd. Shouts are heard. The solemn poise has been ripped off. The crowd as one momentarily stands still and on its toes looks and listens. In the very midst of the pillars of immense wealth, in the very stronghold of the superlative, there is a crack. Life has appeared. Hunger, insecurity, unemployment have appeared.

With placards high above the crowd, hundreds of unemployed and CWA workers, two abreast, march up and down the Avenue of silk. Vigorously they shout "Work, work, we want work. We demand unemployment insurance. Make the bankers pay the rent. Equality for all, negro and white."

The faces of the four hundred harden. Their grip on their canes tightens. Tyranny has been questioned. Brutal indifference defied. War has been declared. Class against class. Exploiters against exploited. Workers have dared invade their most exclusive and most holy realm—and on Easter Sunday, Disgraceful blasphemy! And the shouting goes on like an ever surging sea.

The flowery, pompous show becomes a farce. The contrast is too sharp, too real. The day has been brilliantly eclipsed by the audacity of a few hundred workers. The

(Continued from Page 2) points of orders etc, would not be permitted. No committees were elected, no credential report made and no discussion permitted on the resolutions, which the delegates had never heard read before. As far as the chairman was concerned the delegates did not exist.

The results of the Continuation Committee of the New York Conference against War and Fascism, does not hold out much promise for the future life of the movement.

The delegates of the CPO offered two basic proposals. That the conference consider broadening out its labor base as the chief task of future work and that a special committee be appointed for this work. That the conference do everything in its power to unify all existing similar movements with special emphasis on the American League Against War and Fascism.

The representatives of the CPO made a sharp fight especially on the second proposal pointing out the lessons of the recent historical events (Germany etc.) that only a broad united labor front, including communists and socialists, had any chance of beating back the Fascist menace.

The first proposal was accepted but the second proposal was rejected. In so doing the Socialists doomed their movement in advance. From the experiences with the American League they have learned nothing. On their side they are just as sectarian if not worse.

As constituted at present the movement is narrowly controlled by the pacifists and religious elements.

The Workers have risen!

TROTSKY and RUSSIA

The move on the part of the present reactionary regime to deport Leon Trotsky from France raises once again a question which has become a sore spot in the inner life of the Communist International; which returns every so often to nag the present leadership of the Comintern.

The very sharp differences which had developed within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union over questions of policies relative to the construction of Socialism, were not of a nature which could not be solved within the limits of Party democracy. These differences should and could have been liquidated had not the inner party regime of Stalin and those around him pursued a course which made a solution of the difficulties well nigh impossible.

The climax of this narrow and bitter factionalism was the deportation of Trotsky from the Soviet Union. A decision made over the opposition of many representatives of Communist Parties, then in Moscow. Among these was the representative of the Communist Party U.S.A.—Bert Wolfe.

It is not insignificant that the supporters of Trotsky continuously raised the cry of his readmission into the Soviet Union, during the first years of his exile, that cry is conspicuous by its absence today. They have raised the slogan of right of asylum in this or that land but not the demand for his readmission to the Soviet Union.

The reason for this is not hard to find. Much water has passed under the bridge since Trotsky's banishment. Upon the banner of opposition which Trotsky had raised inside the C.P.S.U. there are now inscribed slogans and policies, subsequently evolved, which

indicate that he has wandered far afield, that he has departed from the fundamental position of Communism.

Granted that Trotsky would not have traveled so far and so fast had he remained inside the Soviet Union, the fact still remains that under the severe bludgeoning of the bureaucratic Comintern apparatus he had steadily given ground and has permitted himself to be driven into a position which, on a number of questions, approximates an outright anti-Soviet stand. Such is the character of Trotsky's theory of Thermidor; his attitude to the C.P.S.U. and his propaganda for civil war in the U.S.S.R.

In his attitude to the Comintern (which he insists is today a reactionary force that has betrayed the proletarian revolution) and in his frantic but unsuccessful efforts to woo a number of centrist parties into a Fourth International against the Comintern, he assumes an openly anti-communist position.

Trotsky has systematically severed those ties which bound him to the Soviet Union. So far has this gone that he today even denies his own political offspring—the Russian Left Opposition—claiming that they can no longer be considered as a premise from which to build his Fourth International.

It is for these reasons that neither Trotsky nor his supporters call for his return to the U.S.S.R. Those who have in the past considered Trotsky's banishment as a crime and were in favor of his readmission can not propose that unconditionally today. The demand for his readmission must be made conditional upon his repudiation of Thermidor, civil war in Russia and the Fourth International.

A TRONIZE BRADLEY'S CAFETERIA, 535 6th Ave.-14 St., 44c

Workers Age

Published Twice Monthly by the
Workers Age Pub. Assn., 51 West 14 Street, New York, N. Y.
Phone: GRamercy 5-8903

Organ of the National Council of the
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE U. S. A. (OPPOSITION)
Subscription rates: Foreign \$1.50 a year. \$1.00 six months. 5 cents
a copy. Domestic \$1.25 a year. \$0.75 six months.

Vol. 3, No. 8

May 15, 1934.

ECONOMIC STORMS AHEAD

SUNDRY steps have been taken to stimulate artificially the revival of economic life in this country. We have time and again emphasized the devitalizing role of such narcotics in the economic process. At this moment, it is urgent that we draw the attention of the workers to a new and dangerous phase of economic development we are entering upon, primarily as a result of the piling up of the numerous artificial stimulants. We have in mind the swiftly rising tide of credit inflation.

The situation runs something like this. The government (the executive committee of the ruling class) has decided to revive production. The easing of credit terms, the making of credit supplies available for the corporations thru various government financial maneuvers and manipulations (subsidies, printing of notes, mass floatation of government securities, etc., etc.) were all calculated to set the wheels of production into motion and thus reduce unemployment and enlarge the market. But the biggest capitalists and their new dealers may calculate and plan all they want and economic forces sternly dispose of their calculations and plans. The latest Federal Reserve review bears eloquent testimony to this.

The revival in production is slackening. What is still worse is that the revival in production has, at best, not at all kept pace with the tempo of the piling up of credit. Thus, the member banks of the Federal Reserve System are now controlling funds which enable them to expand bank credits from 16 billion to 24 billion dollars. And this without the slightest aid and, therefore, without the least control of the Reserve Board! A dangerous runaway credit situation is in the making. The mounting bank deposits of today are, consequently, not a sign of business growth but rather further evidence of economic stagnation.

This plethora of credit is choking no one particular section of the country or any special type of bank. This curse of plenty, offered as a blessing in its early stages, will soon plague all regions of the country. If this mountain of credit were actually used as loans or investments it would swell the investments and loans of the member banks to a grand total of about 49 billion dollars or to about 14 billion dollars above the peak of the 1928-1929 credit boom. The latter, the capitalists, will painfully recall, ended with a bang—the Stock Market crash of 1929. In fact, the Roosevelt New Deal stimulation has brought forth a monster credit bubble resting on a potential basis of loans and investments almost 24 billion dollars higher than the pinnacle of war financing by member banks in 1920.

The artificial piling up of credits—of which American capitalism has not been short for decades—cannot supply the banks with borrowers, so long as the gap between productive capacities and consumption possibilities is not reduced. Bankers are anxious to grant loans—at a profit. Manufacturers are anxious to make loans when they feel they stand a chance of making enough profits for themselves and of meeting loan and interest obligations. Besides, as it is, industry is already overdeveloped in its productive capacity and the whole economic situation is fundamentally not reassuring.

The ground for the next and much worse crisis is now being prepared and made fertile by the numerous relief measures of the New Deal. The danger signals of the storm of tomorrow are already visible today, while we are still in the depths of the old crisis. These danger signals are multiplying rapidly. To the workers these are no false alarms or warnings of some distant future. They are already cruelly evident in the army of fully unemployed growing by more than three-quarters of a million in recent months; in the increasing signs of a trend towards lengthening of hours, in the resumption of the tendency towards falling purchasing power, in the mounting relief rolls thruout the country. All of this while dividends and profits continue to rise. Thus, the aggregate net "earnings" of 400 big concerns for 1933 was \$558 millions, in contrast with only 69 million dollars for 1932. This is the class system.

But the very organic nature of capitalism breeds the germs of crisis and decay in the two phases, thru the high profits as well as the low wages, of the economic process. In the artificially inflated credit bag pictured above, in the hectic runaway credit situation now being rapidly developed, the elements of the next crisis are being brought to a focal point. It is clear that as a social system capitalism has outlived its historical usefulness. Its sources of strength of yesterday are its source of weakness today. Its remedies of today are the disease-breeders of its plagues of tomorrow. Only the revolutionary proletariat, by acting as a Bolshevik undertaker, as the Russian working class did in 1917, can cure the situation.

MAY DAY IN NEW YORK

MAY FIRST 1934 will be recorded in the history of the labor movement in New York as a red letter day. Never did New York see such large numbers of workers pour into the streets on May First, and march for many hours under banners and slogans of proletarian protest against the ravages of unemployment and hunger which rule the land. Never were heard such stormy protests and expressed determination to resist the coming of war and beat down this bloody monster Fascism. The streets of New York echoed and reechoed the resentment of the masses against capitalism and their determination to build a better world.

The complete solidarity of the workers was marred, however, by division which could not be bridged this May Day. The Communist party and its sympathetic organizations marched by themselves while the great many thousands from the factories and shops, thru their organized union detachments, marched in the parade of the Labor Conference. We must record the fact that this division resulted on the one hand from the refusal of the Socialist party and a number of trade unions to participate in one demonstration with the Communist party. On the other hand the Communist party, thru its dual-unionist policy, its insane tactics on such occasions as the Madison Square Garden event, had deepened the chasm between itself and the rest of the labor movement. The Communist party also showed no desire to achieve a solid front on May First.

The parade of the Communist party comprised some 25,000 workers, the great majority of them marching under banners of var-

ious CP influenced organizations of a fraternal and cultural nature. The trade union sections of the parade (Industrial Unions and minority groups in A. F. of L. unions) were woefully weak, dramatizing most clearly the isolationist character of the CP's activity in the last few years.

On the other hand, the parade of the Labor Conference, including in its ranks about 35,000 marchers, consisted overwhelmingly of trade unions. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union alone must have had fully 15,000 marchers in line. An excellent showing was also made by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and other trade unions. The great significance in this big turn out of organized trade unionists lies also in the fact that many thousands of these marchers did so for the first time in their life. These were the thousands of recent recruits into the trade unions who were receiving, on May First, their first lesson in working class solidarity.

Another significant event in connection with the Labor Parade and demonstration was the participation of the Communist Party (Opposition) and the Communist League. The CPO contingent consisted of about 500 marchers. This despite the fact that all our trade unionists marched with their unions. All dressmakers CPO members, for instance, marching with the Local 22 column, led by Zimmerman and Nelson. The CPO had two speakers at the demonstration. Jay Lovestone speaking for the CPO and Edward Welsh for the Workers Unemployed Union.

One of the most encouraging signs of a deep-felt desire for the united front of all political tendencies was the scene at Madison Square when the Communist Opposition and the Communist League marched into the square. Thousands of Socialists and other workers, with clenched fists upraised, thundered—"Long Live The United Front."

From the very first the Communist Party (Opposition) was imbued with the desire to achieve this May Day the greatest possible measure of working class unity. The situation in the U. S. A., the growth of Fascism in Europe, the nearness of war, all these considerations demanded it.

For this reason we were the first to raise the question of a Labor Conference rather than a Socialist Conference. This was done in order to make possible the participation of many trade unions who would otherwise have refused to participate and also to permit the participation of other tendencies in the revolutionary movement. This would have been impossible otherwise. This course was finally adopted after considerable hesitation and vacillation on the part of the Socialist party.

We fought most vigorously, in the conference, for the admission of the Communist party, urging all elements to put aside their prejudices and forget the stupidities committed on all sides, in order to achieve what was most needed—a complete united front. This we were not able to achieve.

When the difficulties over the time arrangement in Union Square arose and there presented itself the danger of a clash at Union Square between the two parades, we insisted that this must be avoided at all costs. We proposed that our demonstration be transferred from Union Square to Madison Square, despite the fact that we knew well the limitations which this proposal placed upon our parade. We considered the avoidance of a clash as the primary consideration. This proposal, sponsored also by a number of trade union representatives and a section of the Socialist party delegation, was finally adopted.

We must state that prior to the May First parade there was a genuine effort made by all political groups and trade unions to work together in an harmonious manner. There were however a number of exceptions. Especially must we mention the character of the publicity which tended to give the impression that it was a Socialist conference and parade, and the deliberate distortion and emasculation of the Conference Call by the Jewish Daily Forward. Among other distortions was the complete omission of the section greeting the Russian workers and farmers and stating that they were building a Socialist society. This was too much for the "Hear The Other Siders."

Immediately after the demonstration, the Socialist party threw all reserve to the winds and came out claiming the whole parade and demonstration as a Socialist event. Such actions will undoubtedly create serious difficulties in any future efforts at setting up united fronts.

With all these shortcomings the united front conference remains a splendid beginning in paving the way for future, even more successful united front efforts.

A Letter From a Worker

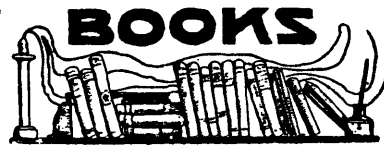
Dear Editor:

On April 24 the Freiheit had an article by Ben Gold about the Joint Council and the Lovestoneites. In this article he said that the Lovestoneites were responsible for attacking the Industrial Union last year. That George Weiss the Lovestoneite was responsible. I would like to ask Ben Gold a few questions in connection with this. Wasn't John Demeles, a member of your dual union, warned to lie down by George because the invading gangsters were going to shoot? Let Gold ask Demeles, who is a member of the Industrial Union organization committee. And why was George taken out of the hands of the police who at the time of the attack arrested some Industrial Union members in the confusion. Gold knows perfectly well that George saved his life then. Today you call him a gangster. Why didn't you call him that in 1926 and 1927 when he saved you from staying in jail by giving himself up in the Mineola Frame Up Case. At that time you and the other defendants were to be held in jail until George was found. Even though it was clearly a frame up George surrendered to the police so that you should be able to get out of jail sooner. And now you call him a scab because he does not belong to your dual union. Because George fights for one union in the trade.

On April 13 you made a big funeral for Joe Freedman. You gave out leaflets in the fur market saying that, "Joe Freedman fought bravely on the picket line and gave his time, his strength and efforts

to the fur workers." That he was not frightened by police clubs and arrests. Will Ben Gold please tell furriers when he was ever arrested or when he ever spent a day in jail for the furriers? Why doesn't Gold tell the furriers where he got the "proletarian sickness—consumption" as your leaflet stated. Tell them that the years he spent in jail were for burglary, swindling and running disorderly houses and not for union work. Tell them that it is easy to get consumption when a Joe Freedman sleeps in a fur shop for 16 weeks without leaving it because of a general strike. Scabbing in 1926 as he also did in 1920. If he wasn't scabbing he was in jail. That's how he got consumption Ben Gold is protecting scabs. Why don't you tell the furriers that other officials in your union are old scabs, like Kaiser and Philip Brown and that the manager of your fur department was a white slaver in the old country. I would also like to say a word about Sol Herts who wrote an article about the furriers in the Freiheit. In 1927 when the furriers were striking 65 workers were arrested, myself and Sol Herts included. Bail was set at \$100 for appearance June 29. Does Sol Herts remember that because he failed to appear all the 64 were sentenced to 15 days in jail, while he went up to the Party's cooperative camp? When was Sol Herts ever on a picket line? When did he ever go to jail for the workers? Why doesn't Sol Herts stay in the cooperative camp instead of writing articles about the Lovestoneites? The furriers don't need him.

A FUR WORKER



BOOKS
PORTRAIT OF AMERICA, by Diego Rivera, text by Bertram D. Wolfe. Covici Friede Co. New York.

The appearance of Portrait of America is an event of significance for the American working class.

In an introduction notable as much for the eloquence of its style as for the richness of its content, Rivera himself evaluates his American work; the general development of ideas from California thru Detroit to New York; the deeper and deeper penetration into the spirit of American existence and development; the inner essence of the various series of murals, as well as the illumination of important details; the aesthetic problems faced and met; the sharp settling of accounts with reactionaries, aesthetic as well as social (Mexican government, Catholic Church, academic art, "our own" Rockefeller). Incidentally the description of the "Battle of Rockefeller Center" is a masterpiece of verbal pictorial effect.

The book as already indicated contains all of Rivera's American work. In work of even such consistently high calibre there is yet steady progression. Marvellous as are the results of Rivera's concentrated vision in his apotheosis of the machine (Detroit murals), in the dynamic portrayal of industrial relations in their amazing detail, there is yet more compelling directness of appeal in the historical murals at the New Workers School because of their magnificent historic sweep as well as the greater explicitness of their social appeal. We can certainly agree with Rivera when he says:

"I have the technical and analytical certainty that those frescoes are the best that I have painted, the best constructed, the most correct in historical dialectic, the richest in materialistic synthesis."

Only one who has gone over the ground of American history himself can realize what a magnificent job of interpretation Wolfe has accomplished, how much has gone into the tremendously concentrated analysis. More suggestive than complete (as was inevitable in view of the limited space for text) it nevertheless, in its entirety, gives one a Marxist orientation on the entire run of American developments. It is far and away, in spite of its shortness, the best work to date, by an American Marxist, on American social development. How surely is the inner essence of the various historical periods uncovered, how deftly are the individuals placed in their historical niches. A magnificent torso—and fit mate to the magnificent pictorial theme.

A word must be said for the make-up of the book. It is a swell job. The black and white prints are excellent. Their being flush with the cover instead of being margined gives a fine sense of continuity as well as completeness. The print is easy on the eyes.

The last words of Rivera in his introduction are:

"I hope that this portrait may be in some small degree useful to a few hundreds or thousands, or as many as possible, of the millions of workers who in the near future, will carry out the formidable task of transforming, by means of revolutionary struggle and proletarian dictatorship, the marvelous industry of the super capitalist country into the basic machinery for the splendid functioning of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics of the American continent."

As time goes on the influence of the "Portrait" in this direction will undoubtedly become progressively greater. —Jim Cork

THE CANADIAN
TOILER
Published Monthly by the
Workers' League of Canada
Subscriptions: 35c a year
Single copies or subs can be
secured thru
WORKERS AGE
51 West 14th St.
New York, N. Y.