

Earl Browder

Leader of Communist Party, Organizer of Chinese Unions

—M. J. OLGIN—

This is the fourth chapter of the life-story of Earl Browder, Communist candidate for President, by M. J. Olgin, Communist leader and editor of the Morning Freiheit.

About the same time (1919) another Communist Party was organized from sections of the Left wing of the Socialist Party. This party called itself directly the Communist Party. Thus the appearance of Communism in the United States was heralded by two parties. Soon both were outlawed by the government and driven underground. In 1920 both parties united to emerge in the open in 1922 as the Communist Party which exists to the present day.

Browder's activities, interrupted by his prison term, were immediately renewed after his release. He moved from Kansas to New York at the end of 1920. He took a job in a wholesale import and export house but soon left it to organize the American delegation to the International Trade Union Congress which founded in 1921 the Red International of Labor Unions.

AN INTERNATIONAL LEADER

The Congress was held in Moscow. Browder was elected delegate from the United States. His ac-

comrades, seeking to approach them, to touch them.

But Browder noted, as the delegation followed the route northward in the path of the famous "Northern Expedition" of the revolutionary armies that there were traitors among the Chinese generals who were selling themselves to imperialism. Chiang Kai-shek was preparing a counter-revolutionary seizure of power.

This gave Browder his first practical experience in mobilizing the masses against reaction in a military revolutionary situation. One district in Kiangsi province, where Chiang Kai-shek had had his reactionary officers murder the leaders of the workers and peasants and seize power, was inspired by the delegation to organize resistance that, overnight, put the reactionary officers to flight and replaced the democratic rule of the masses who then looked to the Hankow government, headed by Wang Chln-wel.

IN HANKOW

Only a few days afterward (April 18, 1927), Chiang Kai-shek declared himself opposed to the Hankow government and set up his feudal-military dictatorship at Nanking. Browder was then in Hankow, Central China, 600 miles from the sea up the mighty Yangtze River.

There in Hankow, besieged by the counter-revolutionary armies of Chiang Kai-shek, blockaded as well by 38 warships of the imperialist powers, was held the first conference of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat, an organization of trade unionists of those countries washed by the waters of the great Pacific Ocean. Browder and Harrison George attended as Left-wing American trade unionists.

These Chinese experiences, especially the Hankow trade union conference, gave Browder a wide and detailed understanding of the great importance of the alliance between the exploited classes of imperialist America and the colonial peoples oppressed by imperialist America.

TRADE UNION LEADER

So deeply did Browder feel the need of building this alliance that he accepted the post of Secretary of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat, a post that he held for some years, until pressing duties in the American labor movement compelled him reluctantly to leave. But all this left a profound impression upon him. He learned that the Chinese, the Japanese and the Filipino peoples are much the same as you and I, with the same interests, joys, sorrows, and also the same enemies in a common struggle of the toilers for life and liberty. He came to fully understand that these peoples of the Far East are the friends and allies of the American workers, and not their "competitors" as capitalist propaganda of race prejudice would have us believe. Thus, an indelible imprint was made upon Browder of the world view, the international meaning of every victory or defeat of the toiling masses, whether in Chicago, Shanghai or Buenos Aires.

(To be continued)

The Ruling Class



"Miss Adams—how would you like instead of six?"



EARL BROWDER, as he was cheered by 20,000 people in Madison Square Garden following his nomination for the presidency. Smiling, he holds aloft the banner of his native state, Kansas.

activities assumed international scope. He was becoming a leader not only in the American labor movement, but also in the labor movement of the world. He was elected member of the Executive Committee of the Red International of Labor Unions.

During that time the Third Congress of the Communist International was held. The Communist International is the international organization of all the Communist Parties in the various countries of the world. Browder was present at the Third Congress as a fraternal delegate from America. It is there that he saw the great leader of the world revolution, Lenin.

Back to the United States he came rich with new experience, with a broader outlook, with renewed determination to carry on the work of organizing the masses of the United States for the struggle against boss rule.

ELECTED PARTY LEADER

In the fall of 1921, upon his return to America, he had been elected member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. He has been reelected at all the nine conventions held by the Communist Party in the past 15 years. Now, in addition to being a member of the Central Committee, he is also General Secretary of the Communist Party.

The year 1927 found Browder in China, sent as a member of an international delegation of workers from imperialist countries with a message of solidarity to the Chinese people, then beginning their revolutionary struggle for national liberation from imperialist domination. This delegation included the veteran British trade unionist, Tom Mann, the "grand old man" of British labor.

The work of the delegation, falling largely upon Browder, was of great inspiration and aid to the Chinese people. It was also of enormous educational value to Browder himself. There being no railway between Canton and Hankow, Browder and Mann travelled hundreds of miles afoot, over mountains, by canal and lake boats, spending nights in ancient Taoist temples of Central China, learning at first hand the life of the common people of mighty China.

CHINESE EXPERIENCE

The whole mass of people were rising to throw off imperialist domination, and everywhere, enormous crowds besieged the delegation, marveling at these representatives of the toilers of imperialist lands, incredulous that there could be white men who looked upon the Chinese toilers as brothers and