

Build the Party in the Small Towns

By F. BROWN

TODAY there is not a town, not a village in the United States where workers, farmers, tenant farmers, agrarian workers, do not know about the existence of the Communist Party, do not speak about our Party. Letters reach the Central Committee daily from the remotest towns of the Middle West, of the West, in which workers, farmers, ask for advice on how to start a movement, ask for speakers, literature, leaflets. Similar letters come to the various Districts. There are cases where workers who leave the industrial cities to go back to their home towns, and having been influenced by our movement, bring back to their towns our campaigns, our slogans, our program. This fact shows that there are tremendous possibilities for spreading the Party in the hundreds of small industrial towns, hundreds of farming towns. Yet, because they are not connected directly with the Party, because of lack of organizational abilities, lack of knowledge of our movement, organization, after a while, remains at a standstill or subsides.

The problem before us is to find the way to reach these towns; how to help such groups of workers and farmers springing up everywhere, and build the Party. While our main task is to direct all our energies in the concentration Districts, in the most important industrial centers in the

basic industries—we cannot neglect the numerous Sections where conditions are favorable for the building of the Party. We must find a method by which we can pay attention also to the small towns without deviating from the main concentration tasks, without diverting the forces from the concentration points.

Is there such a method? Yes. Especially now with the coming of the favorable seasons which permit free moving around, traveling, there is the possibility for our Party to reach the many towns where the workers and farmers are interested not only in being concretely informed about our program of the way out of the crisis, but who want to come into direct contact with Communists, the Communist Party. To achieve this aim, we should begin to prepare now in each of the larger Districts, special Sunday groups of rank-and-file comrades who should be trained for this work. For example, it would be very easy for the N. Y. District, on the basis of a plan, to select from 50 to 100 comrades, divide them into a few groups, train them for their specific task in visiting small towns Sunday after Sunday in the area of the N. Y. District. In New York, there is no problem of finding comrades who will not only volunteer for this work, but who will also contribute the means of transportation—cars, gasoline—for the trips. In four to five months' time, through such work, we will be able to reach many towns, to make hundreds of connections, to spread our program among masses that are waiting for us, to make known our press, to penetrate these areas with the **Daily Worker**, with our literature, etc.

After a few months of this work, our Party organization will come into existence in many, many more towns and villages. The comrades who will volunteer for this work, or who will be assigned, must be trained not only to have the correct approach to the workers, to the farmers of the towns which they will cover, but should be able to present the Party program in the most simple manner. Sunday groups should become a real institution in the larger Districts and also in some of the strongest Sections where the Sections embrace a large territory. If we succeed in the next few months in establishing such groups at least in the ten major Districts—we are certain that in five to six months' time we will be able to report real success along this line in hundreds of new towns.
