

Much Progress That We Are Making and Some That We Are Not

By SAM DARCY.

ON the occasion of our trade union month it is fitting that the membership hear a report of our activities during the past two months.

Lack of External Work.

The league has taken some tremendous strides forward but the awkwardness with which there were accomplished only served to bring out more clearly the things that we must correct in order to make our progress faster and surer.

After the convention was over two dangerous tendencies manifested themselves within the league: On the one hand many comrades took the attitude that they had fought a hard battle and were entitled to rest while on the other hand many did not realize that the fight was over and that the organization must immediately get down to work. Both these attitudes caused the temporary continuation of the same condition (the lack of external work) that existed before the convention had opened.

Unity Established.

With the co-operation and under the leadership of the Y. C. I. much has been done to liquidate this situation. On the national committee the leadership is not only consolidated into a solid block behind the C. E. C. of the party and for the carrying out of the decisions of the last national convention of the league have taken actual steps to make this unity, not one based on resolutions merely but on the actual carrying out of real mass work.

In the districts this development has in a large sense reflected the activities of the N. E. C. After the tour of the national organizer the attitude of the membership which was dangerously apathetic began to take a more optimistic turn.

Apathy of Districts.

With the exception of Philadelphia practically every other district has established unity, and by this time is working hard carrying out the decisions of the last national convention. Buffalo, Cleveland and the Twin Cities sub-districts have not as yet learned to respond to the decisions and instructions of the national office. This lack of discipline is a hangover of the factional fight, when every district did more or less as they pleased according to which faction they were part of. The districts generally have this fault but it is outstanding in the three mentioned. Our comrades must learn to respond more quickly than they are now doing. The general increase in the activities is however in a large measure solving this problem.

Mass Work.

The first step towards real mass work in the conference in eastern Ohio We are sending organizers from every section of the mining country into the field and are turning every energy towards making this a success. We are of course faced not only with the external opposition in such work but also with the lack of facilities, finances, etc. But despite all these difficulties the conference is making splendid advances and we expect real mass representation of young workers,

especially young miners, there. On another part of this page is a detailed report of this work.

Progress in Districts.

In five of our eleven districts we have succeeded in establishing full time district organizers. In two others we have part time D. O.'s while in three others the D. O.'s do their work in spare time only. In at least one of these districts we expect to establish a full time D. O. by the end of January. In the Los Angeles district we have Comrade Schneiderman on tour thru the district rebuilding the league and taking up all the organizational problems with them.

Re-organization.

Reorganization is almost completed. The N. E. C. is continually getting out material on the methods of work under the new form. It is a bit early to state as yet just what the results of reorganization are but we are sure that it has been accomplished with practically no loss of membership while in many places there were actual gains. Our comrades must not rest with the reorganization. They must push on. Their work in the factories must bring results if they follow the correct lines. Close study of our programs should be made and the work should be greatly intensified on this basis.

Fractions.

We are yet having difficulty with our Y. W. L. fractions in the trade unions. In some places—Boston, New York, Pittsburgh—these are beginning to function. Elsewhere no serious starts have been made. We are sending out material on the organization of fractions. Our industrial department is closely co-operating with every unit which is doing any work and pushing the work elsewhere. Our local comrades must co-operate to a greater degree in this work with the national office.

Lack of Finances.

There is one great difficulty in our work. That is finances. Our build the league fund netted us but \$1,800. At the same time very little money came in on dues, literature, etc. The result is that we have tremendous possibilities for work but no money to carry it on with. Our organizers in the anthracite are practically without funds even for fares. We are being held up on the sending in of organizers into eastern Ohio. Our new pamphlet cannot be taken from the printers until we raise \$300 to pay for it. The Young Worker and the Young Comrade is always late in coming off the press because we have not the funds to pay for it. A financial statement will be issued to the units on Jan. 1. Our comrades will then see the seriousness of the situation. Unless we can get help quickly we may be forced to turn the Young Worker into a monthly. This would be a tremendous blow at us. The districts must push the subscription drive, the new pamphlet, dues and the remittances on their debt if we are to survive this crisis.

Party Drive for League.

The party is undertaking a membership drive among their members in our behalf. The foreign language bu-

reaus will at their next few sessions be instructed to take up the question of work among the foreign-speaking youth. If the league is to co-operate in these campaigns it must have more help—both financial and in the matter of getting quick response from the local units. We suggest that the units discuss this report and take measures to increase their efficiency.

This report is extremely sketchy and quite inadequate. A more detailed report will be issued at the end of the year in conjunction with our financial report.

Watch the Saturday Magazine Section for new features every week. This is a good issue to give to your fellow worker.

Economic Trade

THE Young Communist International has proclaimed December, Economic-Trade Union Month, thruout the world. The aim is to concentrate all the energies and activities of each league upon this phase of activity, which is one of the most effective methods of reaching the working class youth.

Recently, a great many young workers' delegations have toured the Soviet Union, being the guests of the Russian young workers. These are now returning to their respective countries and are reporting favorable upon the conditions of the young workers in the Soviet Union. This broadcasting of the authentic knowledge of the conditions of the young workers of Soviet Russia, is being well utilized by the various Young Communist Leagues, where a decided contrast can be made between working class Russia and the rest of the capitalist world.

THE Young Communist Leagues are especially concentrating upon popularizing world trade unity; unity of the youth and adult workers; unionization of the working class youth; removal of all barriers against the youth in the unions and equality of rights.

Economic-Trade Union Month in America, among other things, implies the following:

1. Active participation in all the struggles of the working class youth. In the present anthracite strike the league has been active in distributing thousands of leaflets. Small meetings and many contacts have been gained. This is only a beginning. We should be the leading influence and spirit of the young miners in the strike. The small beginning the league made in the textile strike in New Jersey is also important. However, each of these struggles must become the means of increasing the prestige and organizational strength of the Young Workers' League.

A concrete example of successful mass activity was the participation of the league in the recent spontaneous coke workers' strike in Pennsylvania.

2. Initiation of factory campaigns and industrial campaigns. Again we