

the TUUL and the Communist Party, there are good.

Shortcomings of Party.

The Communist Party here, however, has many shortcomings, standing in the way of its entrenchment in these highly important war industries. Pessimism, defeatism; e. g., ("We are too weak to do anything") right social democratic-orientation: ("We are too busy with our fraternal clubs"); white chauvinism is not entirely, as yet eradicated; some stopped coming to the meetings and told their children from the YCL and YP not to go also, since we made headway with Negro

ourselves at the complete disposal of the League. We pledge ourselves to become soldiers in the ranks of our League and to do whatever work is assigned to us. To attend meeting regularly, to pay dues, and in that way strengthen our League.

Speed up the membership drive!

Cleanse your League of all undesirable elements!

Forward to a mass Young Communist League!

Fears for a successful membership drive,

UPPER BRONX, NO. 1.

THE COMMUNIST ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By S. A. Darcy

Article II.

THE lack of initiative from below brought with it many organizational shortcomings in the New York election campaign of our Party. Thus the assignment of speakers and publicity for every local meeting was the task of the District Committee, while the procuring of committees for these meetings were the tasks of the section committee or unit. Thus there was a big gap between the speakers and the committees for the meetings, making for endless difficulties. Sometimes the speaker did not come on time and so the committee which came felt justly outraged, and other times the exact reverse would take place. This lack of contact between speakers and committees can be overcome through the encouragement of initiative from below; the establishment of section campaign headquarters which shall have attached to itself a certain number of speakers so that the entire work of organizing the local meetings shall be in the hands of a single committee thereby avoiding confusion. Another example of this same tendency to deprive lower Party organs of their initiative was the choosing of all local candidates by the District Committee. This put the section committee in the position of Party organizations which lack political authority. And this also considerably weakened the campaign.

But even in District Committee there were considerable shortcomings in the very way that the work was organized. There was too much tendency to centralize the whole campaign in the hands of a special campaign committee, taking the campaign away from the regularly functioning Party apparatus. The worst result was that the Party did not carry the campaign into the shops.

It was inevitable that all these shortcomings in the organization of the work should have found reflection in the results obtained. Thus out of approximately 500 street corner meetings arranged during the campaign, about 20 per cent never took place and a consider-

able number of the balance were carried thru in a very poor fashion. Only about 130 factory gate meetings were arranged and even out of this startlingly small number about 25 per cent took place. These failures were largely due to the lack of coordination between the various sections of the Party in its work.

No small shortcoming in this campaign was the character of our candidates. Most of them did not participate in the campaign. Many of them were not even in town during the time the campaign took place, but were in other parts of the country. Out of our 36 candidates we were able to a certain the records of 34 as to their participation in campaign activity. If we take the number of times they spoke at election meetings as a barometer we find the following:

Candidates who never spoke, 9; candidates who spoke one to three times during the entire campaign, 19; Those who spoke about six times, 12; those who spoke regularly (twice a week), 3.

From these figures it can be seen that the cadre of comrades who should have made the best leaders in the campaign were useless and even a hinderance.

Do Shortcomings Show Left or Right Danger?

Our shortcomings in regard to the lack of response from the language organizations were so manifest as to hardly need citation. Thus practically every meeting arranged by our language propaganda bureaus were failures. Many bureaus did not even attempt to organize meetings. Similarly those organizations which are friendly to the Communist Party such as the various relief and defense organizations, and the left wing trade unions were either not at all or hardly mobilized for the drive. In some unions the agitation for the Communist platform and ticket was so weak that where in other matters as for example participation in anti-war demonstrations under United Front auspices it was possible to get the entire organization to respond, in this case the endorsement of the Communist platform

and ticket was achieved by only a very small margin. In practically no case was the drive for our platform and ticket taken to the membership and the workers in the shops by the union leaders but only to the top committees.

The Lovestoneites in citing the reasons for the failure of many of our comrades to respond actively in the organization of the campaign through fighting in the factories and mass organizations, say that this failure arises out of a "leftist" attitude towards the election campaign, namely the attitude that the election campaign is not a revolutionary method of struggle. In answer to the Lovestoneites it must be pointed out that the source of the failure of many of our comrades in this period to participate actively in support of the Communist platform and ticket is not due to a leftist appreciation of election campaigns but is rather due to an opportunist resistance to raising the Party banner in mass organizations and before the workers generally. It is in this way that one can understand the failure of our language bureaus and our fractions in other mass organizations to build up the necessary support for the Communist ticket and candidates.

Our Own Amateurishness.

The last important shortcoming which it is necessary to cite here is the amateurishness of our Party in the campaign methods that we employ. I refer especially to the entirely inadequate and monotonous leaflets that we issue; to the failure to circulate voters list especially in proletarian sections of the city, to use the newer methods of propaganda which are available to us such as moving pictures or at least stereopticon views; of carrying on our open air meetings in more modern fashion with loud speakers attached to trucks, etc. It should be interesting in this connection to study not only the methods of the Communist Parties in other countries but also the methods of the bourgeois parties in the U. S.

Positive Sides of the Campaign.

The sharp criticism introduced in this article may lead some comrades to think that there were no positive sides to the campaign. This of course would be entirely untrue. We have only to cite the fact that this year our Party comrades collected more signatures during the election campaign in one month's less time than last year. And that this signature collection was carried through in accompaniment with serious political agitation such as did not mark previous campaigns. We can also point to the fact that several hundred new members joined the Party during this period. The campaign open air meetings which were carried through received in the main splendid response from the workers who showed tremendous interest in the issues raised by our Communist Party.

The election campaign of the Fall of 1930 will be a more important one in certain respects than was this last election campaign. Through correcting our errors, through eliminating the shortcomings and strengthening of our Party both ideologically and organizationally will be able to achieve that measure of support for our Communist ticket and platform which the workers in growing numbers are ready to give.