

Report of the Gitlow Tour

As has been announced in the last two issues of the *Revolutionary Age*, Comrade Ben Gitlow, secretary of the CP-Majority Group made a tour thru a large part of the country in the month of October. The tour proved to be an extremely successful one, the open meetings which Comrade Gitlow being the most successful yet held by our group.

The following extracts from Comrade Gitlow's reports to the National Office give a general view of his tour. It will be noted that the tour began and ended in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

The tour had a successful beginning in Philadelphia. On September 13 there was a meeting with some active needle trades workers and in the evening a membership meeting. On the next day there took place a ratification meeting for the Communist candidates and in the evening a banquet. At noon on September 15 there was held a "Hands Off China" demonstration at City Hall Plaza at which there were over 500 workers present. In the evening an open air meeting was held in the Negro section, at 16th and Kater, at which Comrades Guss, Gitlow and Rothchild Francis spoke, before a very interested crowd of over 200 Negroes. Seventy five copies of *Revolutionary Age* were sold and over 60 names obtained.

THE ANTHRACITE

The economic crisis has effected the anthracite coal region very seriously. Unemployment dominates the whole region. Those working work part time. Many miners are making only 15 days pay in two months. The companies are tightening their grip on the mines and the conditions are becoming more and more unbearable. The contract system is especially detested by the miners. The Lewis machine is working hand in glove with the operators. General pessimism prevails in the rank and file and in the Grievance Committees. A continuation of these conditions is bound to force some action on the part of the rank and file.

The coal companies are determined to put thru a big wage cut under the new agreement. The lack of an effective left wing opposition in the UMWA plays right into the hands of the bosses and Lewis. There is crying need for such an organization in this region.

The Party keeps a crew of incompetent organizers whose main task it is to slander and vilify the active workers. They are working overtime to discredit the movement. The "National Miners Union" is dead. Its role in Pittston and against the Grievance Committee and the

strike has embittered the rank and file.

Our group is making good headway in the anthracite. Local 1616 of the UMWA passed our resolution and later introduced it into the General Grievance Committee of the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. consisting of 8 local unions comprising over 12,000 members. It passed there. The Federation of the Anthracite Slovenian National Benefit Society consisting of approximately 10 branches and about 1,500 members also adopted our resolution.

Our meeting in Luzerne on October 3 was well attended. Over 60 workers were present. The banquet the following day was a very good affair. In spite of the very hard times the collection at the banquet amounted to \$53; at the mass meeting \$12.

DETROIT, MICH.

Detroit has been very severely hit by the economic crisis. The politicians and business men of the city are extremely worried about the situation. All kinds of promises are made, all kinds of ineffectual schemes are proposed. The Mayor's committee on unemployment is a huge joke. Its first job was to register one unemployed worker from a family. In a few days 80,000 unemployed registered. The City Council appropriated \$20,000 to aid the unemployed but it was allocated to pay the salaries of the ward heelers and petty politicians hired by the Mayor's committee. There are dozens of bread lines all over the city. About a third of those on the bread lines are Negroes. The conditions among the Negroes are frightful.

The petty bourgeoisie has been hard hit by the economic crisis and by the sweep of the chain stores. Thousands of stores are empty. So are thousands of flats. There are approximately 200,000 unemployed in Detroit. The automobile industry is at a standstill. Ford who is employing half his crew has gone to a two day and a two and a half day basis.

These conditions are making the workers think. The Party policy has completely discredited the Communists. This is to be seen on every side.

The group meeting in Detroit took place on October 8. On October 9 took place our open meeting. There were 175 workers present, including 20 Party members who gave keen attention and gave appreciative approval to the proposals to organize a broad unemployment movement. Comrade William Miller was chairman. A large number of workers handed in their names as contacts.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Unemployment has hit Chicago and hit it hard. At nights the parks and viaducts are crowded with hungry, homeless jobless men. The newspapers are full of it. Here, as everywhere else, in capitalist America, no genuine relief is proposed. The wealthy are very much worried over the situation. . . . So they have made a proposal to open up Cook County jail to the unemployed—a place unfit for any kind of human habitation. The labor movement in Chicago is almost completely in the grip of the gangster-racketeer-labor faker combination. Union conditions, wages and hours have broken down. There is much dissatisfaction among the workers.

The line of the Communist Party here is a crazy sectarian one—as everywhere else. They have attempted to organize a couple of printers into a new printers union and a few milk drivers into a new food workers union. Their policy is mass work and in the mass organizations such as to make it impossible to take any advantage of the favorable conditions.

Our group in Chicago is taking on life and activity. The prospects are for better work and more results in Chicago. We had a group meeting on October 12. Our open meeting took place on October 11, 1930. It certainly was a surprise. There were 83 workers and 3 dicks present. There were about 10 Party members and 5 Trotskyites there. The enthusiasm and spirit of the meeting could not have been better. The Party tried to run a counter meeting but failed. They called a campaign meeting in a hall near-

by but only 35 were present and practically all party members.

SUPERIOR, WIS.

In Superior everybody was busy in preparation for the National Convention of the Cooperative League of North America which was just to open in Superior on October 16. The Central Cooperative Exchange has been growing stronger and making good ground in the period since the Communist Party bureaucrats expelled the leading communists in the cooperative movement (Halonon, Hayes, etc.) and broke with the cooperative movement and its leaders with the result of destroying its own prestige and completely discrediting itself. The cooperative leaders have established the control thruout the movement, have organized a well-functioning Cooperative Youth League and Women's Cooperative Guild and have set up unity committees in every town in the region. On the eve of the cooperative convention the *Tyomies* (Party Finnish paper) came out with a full blast that Gitlow had come to Superior to cement an "alliance" between Warbasse, Halonen and the "Lovestonites!"

On October 15 there took place an open meeting at Superior in the Workers Hall. A. J. Hayes was chairman. There were over 150 workers present, more than were present when Gitlow was in Superior in 1928 as vice-presidential candidate.

In every way the meeting was an excellent one. There was also a conference with the leading Communist functionaries in the cooperative movement in

which the questions of trade union work and the labor party were prominent.

HARTFORD, CONN.

In Hartford there took place a group meeting and an open air meeting on October 20.

BOSTON, MASS.

In Boston there took place a group meeting on October 19. It was impossible to hold an open meeting because of time.

BALTIMORE, MD.

In this city there was a meeting arranged by the Liberal Club of Johns Hopkins University on October 23. The subject was the situation in the trade union movement. The next day I appeared before Bakers Local No. 209 of the AF of L which donated \$10 to the *Revolutionary Age* in its struggle. On the same evening there took place a good open meeting.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

In Philadelphia on October 26 there took place the second Conference for the Defense of the Labor Press called to resist the government attack on the *Revolutionary Age*. There were 33 delegates present, practically all not members of our group. Among them were 8 Negro delegates. The conference was very successful. On October 25 there was banquet at which 85 workers were present, 25 Negroes among them. There was also a group meeting in Philadelphia.

Results of the Elections

(Continued from page 3)

ent situation is the defeats that the labor movement, especially its advanced sections, have suffered in the last two years—the loss of strikes, the smashing of labor organizations, the weakening of the labor movement generally. Not the least of the factors in this direction was the catastrophically sectarian and adventurist policies of the Communist Party. All in all the results in the elections certainly did not indicate the "wide-spread and deep-going radicalization" we have all heard about.

The Communist Party has shown itself unable to make good its campaign of bluff and bombast of the last year and a half. The gain registered in the elections is certainly there. But how can a vote of 15,000 in New York City be matched with the 125,000 workers who were supposed to have rallied around the Party in New York on March 6? with the "scores of thousands" who were supposed to have rallied on May Day, on August 1 on September 1 and who "packed Madison Sq. Garden" so many times? With all due allowance for foreign-born, etc., the discrepancy must certainly be explained!

What is the analysis of the *Daily Worker* of the elections? In the editorial on November 6, there is not a word about the significance of the elections in relation to the two-party system! A complete misunderstanding of the significance of the SP vote! The very same people who were so ready to consider the vote for Al Smith in 1928 as a sign of "radicalization" refuse to look upon a worker who breaks with Tammany and votes Socialist as moving to the left! They completely miss the objective significance of the Socialist vote because of the very true fact that the SP is really a bourgeois workers party. Above all there is no attempt made to square the high-flown talk of the "revolutionization" of the workers with the actual vote. The editorial declares:

"Only those who voted against the democratic and 'socialist' candidates, as well as Republican, can be counted as representing a definite move to the left of the American working class." So, the "move to the left" is limited to a few thousand workers thruout the country! Where then are the "million masses moving to the left?" This remains the insoluble contradiction of the

Daily Worker!

The elections put more clearly than ever as the main task before the American working class the breaking of the vicious circle of the two-party system and the initiation of the first step in the direction of independent working class political action. That is why the Labor Party (or the Farmer-Labor Party) rises as an issue more immediate and current than ever. It is now clearer than it has been for many years that the first step in the direction of the political formation of the proletariat as a class will take place thru the struggle for and the formation of a Labor Party.

IN A TERRIBLE PLIGHT

The Richmond Council of Social Agencies two years ago appointed a Negro Welfare Survey Committee to study the conditions of the Negroes in Richmond, Va. The report of this body, just made public, makes the following significant findings:

(1) "In every division of human welfare the position of the Negro was immensely disadvantageous, and accordingly perhaps dangerous. . . ."

(2) "From the evidence before it the committee agrees, first, that the inferior economic status of Richmond Negroes constitute their most fundamental and pressing problem and is related directly and inexorably to every other social problem of the group. . . ."

(3) The report further emphasizes that the Negroes are for the most part the lowest paid and that only unskilled occupations are open to them.

(4) The Negroes are forced to live in the poorer streets, in houses often unfit for habitation, overcrowding prevails; rent exorbitantly high.

(5) "Often the mothers are obliged to supplement the fathers' earnings by work away from home."

(6) There are very few recreational facilities for either children or adults.

The report concludes by emphasizing that the high death rates and "delinquency" are due to these miserable conditions forced upon the Negroes. The findings offer a scathing indictment of the horrible situation in which the Negro masses especially find themselves under American capitalist democracy.

now going on the CP of Sweden has scored an even greater victory. Everywhere it has increased its vote, having already gained scores of seats in the municipal councils. Nowhere have the "loyalites" got as much as 25 % of the CP vote! Final figures on the municipal elections will be published in the next issue of the *Age*.

In Alsace

On Sunday, October 12, took place the preliminary elections for municipal council in Strassburg, in Alsace, France. These elections proved a tremendous victory for the Communist Party of Alsace (which has been expelled from the Communist Party of France and which adheres to the International-Communist Opposition). The preliminary votes of the CP amounted to 9,000 a considerable increase over its previous vote.

The victory of the CP was especially marked over the Social-democrats. In the section East Comrade Schall of the CP received 1,600 votes more than the CP-democrat Hincker. In the section West the Social-democrat was beaten by 1,200 votes. And so on. A particularly miserable showing was made by the little loyalite "Communist Party" in Alsace which received less than 1,500 votes as against 9,000 of the CP-Opposition.