

Our First Organizational Conference

By JAY LOVESTONE.

ON Dec. 29, 1925 the party held its first organizational conference. The sessions were devoted strictly to a discussion and a consideration of the various problems arising in the different districts in the campaign to reorganize the party on the basis of shop and street nuclei.

In addition to the members of the central executive committee attending the full session of the C. E. C. there were also present all district organizers except those from Seattle and California. The different district organizers placed before the conference their experiences and problems of reorganization in their districts.

Boston District Slow.

Reporting on the progress of reorganization in District 1, Comrade Balam indicated the difficulties in the Boston district because of the small number of English-speaking members and the character of the industries in which the party membership was employed in his territory.

Because of the achievements of the Finnish national convention, the Finnish branches of District 1, constituting the overwhelming majority of the membership in this section, are now responding quite well to reorganization. The city of Boston has been divided into seven sections, 375 out of the 425 members in the city have registered for reorganization. Lawrence is already partially reorganized. A big shop nucleus is expected in one of the textile mills in Maynard. Shop nuclei are being organized in the shoe factories of Peabody and Lynn. In Brockton two shop nuclei are already functioning. Lanesville, West Concord and Fitchburg have already been reorganized.

New York Does Good Job.

Comrade Stachel, reporting for District 2, gave an elaborate and instructive report of the substantial progress and good results achieved by the New York district in the reorganization campaign, 2,800 members were registered in the city of New York alone. Real difficulty has been met in the local Finnish branches. Scores of comrades were mobilized for the reorganization campaign after being given specific instructions on how to handle the problems. The language bureaus were drawn into close co-operation. The city has been divided into eleven sections and 34 sub-sections.

At the first sub-section meetings held about 1,700 comrades were present. This is much better attendance than in the old branches for the same territory. Today there are 207 shop nuclei with 934 members. There are 61 concentration groups or working area groups with a membership of 720. These are really street nuclei consisting of comrades working in certain factory districts in whose places of employment there are not yet three or more party members employed for the formation of a shop nucleus. There are also 36 street nuclei or international branches with a membership of 846.

More than half of the membership in the street nuclei consist of comrades working in the building trades. The shop nuclei are well distributed in the clothing, shoe, metal and other industries. The main difficulty at present is to secure enough comrades with capabilities to direct these new party units. The nature and function of the old territorial branches necessitated a small fraction of the number of party functionaries now required by the reorganized party.

Preparations are afoot to complete

reorganization in New Jersey and Connecticut.

Philadelphia Progress.

In reporting as to the progress of reorganization in District 3, Comrade Tallentire told of the opposition to reorganization in one of the Lithuanian branches, and the extra difficulties incurred because of the anthracite strike. The city of Philadelphia is completely registered and will be functioning on a shop and street nucleus basis in a week.

Buffalo Finishes Registration.

Comrade Sullivan reported that Buffalo is thru with registration. The Finnish convention has brought very good results in registering the big Finnish branch of the city. Eight shop nuclei are being organized in the city of Buffalo, primarily in the steel and automobile industry. Erie, Utica and Syracuse are completely reorganized. Binghamton, Schenectady and Rochester are being reorganized. The Finnish comrades in Schenectady are objecting to registration. In certain instances in this district comrades are refusing to give their correct names and addresses in their opposition to reorganization. There are several sections of the district which are really company-owned towns and this accounts for one source of opposition to reorganization. The terrorism of the employers is feared by some of our members.

Pittsburgh Practically Reorganized.

In the Pittsburgh district Comrade Jakira reported practically complete reorganization. The problem getting the greatest attention now is that of reorganizing the isolated branches. Good shop nuclei have been organized in the steel mills and coal mines. Comrades are meeting with difficulty in working in the shop nuclei without being interfered with by the employers because in this district the industrial spy system is the most vicious and the best developed.

The change of employment, such as the transfer from mine to mine, or even the transfer from industry to industry and moving out of the state, have proved a source of interference in the reorganization campaign in this district.

In instances where nuclei are composed of members of one nationality Comrade Jakira has adopted the correct practice of transferring comrades of another nationality into that nucleus so as to prevent that nucleus from functioning, in any respect at all, as a language group.

Cleveland Winding Up.

The Cleveland district, according to the report of Comrade Amter, the district organizer, is now completely registered and shop nuclei and street nuclei are being organized. By the tenth of January, the district will be completely reorganized. The city of Cleveland is already completely reorganized.

Detroit Shop Nuclei Already Functioning.

In the Detroit district the problem of reorganization is on the whole simpler than in other districts. Here we have one basic industry, the automobile industry, in which most of the members are employed. There are 15 well-functioning shop nuclei in the city of Detroit. Shop nuclei papers have been issued here and have brought good results. A central fund is being established for issuing shop nuclei papers. Ten of the best comrades of the Finnish branch have been mobilized to draw in Finnish comrades into the reorganized units. There is some opposition in the ranks of the Lithuanian comrades. The

South Slavic comrades responded best to their reorganization. Comrade Owens, the district organizer, told of the intense interest being taken by our party members in problems of unionizing the automobile workers.

Chicago First to Complete Reorganization.

Comrade Abern made a very instructive report on the experience of the Chicago district which was the first to be completely reorganized on the basis of shop and street nuclei. District Organizer Abern told of the complete and accurate registration in the district and of the proposal to teach the non-English members the English language so as to facilitate their functioning effectively in the new party units. He also touched upon the problem of getting regular reports from the shop nuclei and of the necessity of paying proper attention to the street nuclei in which so large a section of our membership is found today. The new party units have already distinguished themselves in The DAILY WORKER campaign.

In the city of Chicago there are 28 shop nuclei with 180 members. Ninety of these members belong to unions. On the whole, reorganization has been taken with enthusiasm in this district. A new spirit of responsibility has been developed in the ranks. There are 40 street nuclei in the city of Chicago. The average membership of the street nuclei is 17. There are now functioning shop nuclei in department stores, clothing factories, millinery factories, car building corporations, automobile factories, railroad shops, steel mills, city transport lines, and coal mines.

Difficulties in Agricultural Section.
The Minneapolis district is on the whole not an industrial district. Most of the branches here are isolated. The overwhelming majority of the membership here is Finnish. There are at least 20 farm branches here. Several branches are located in the Iron range. The cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have already been reorganized and are now functioning on the shop and street nuclei basis, according to the district organizer's report.

The West Falls Into Line.

The organization department has been informed by the district organization of Seattle and San Francisco that registration there is practically completed. In the city of Tacoma, Washington, there are already functioning three shop nuclei and one street nucleus. In Seattle there are being organized eight shop nuclei. The remainder of the comrades will be in street nuclei. In San Francisco there are eight shop and seven street nuclei. In Fort Bragg there are three shop

PHILADELPHIA IS NOW BEING COMPLETELY REORGANIZED ON SHOP AND STREET NUCLEI BASIS

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 5.—The city of Philadelphia is now being completely reorganized on the basis of shop and street nuclei.

The city has been divided into four sections, which will hold meetings during the coming week, to complete the reorganization and assign the comrades definitely to the various units.

Indications are that there will be 25 promising shop nuclei in this city, and 16 street nuclei. Altho at the beginning most of the members will be in the street nuclei, it is hoped that with the active work of the shop nuclei, many new members will be gained into the newly reorganized party.

The section meetings will take place at the following places, and on the following dates:

Section 3—January 7, 4035 Girard Ave.

been arranged. Admission will be 25 cents. The young workers will always remember the fight which Liebknecht and Luxemburg carried on in the interest of the working masses. Particularly will the young workers remember Liebknecht who at all times gave aid to the youth in their struggles. His book, "Militarism and Anti-Militarism," pointed out to the young workers the menace of militarism. For writing this book Liebknecht was sentenced to prison.

The workers will never forget when with the co-operation of the social-democrats, the tools of German capitalism murdered in cold blood Liebknecht and Luxemburg.

nuclei. In Eureka there are three shop nuclei. The San Francisco district will be completely reorganized by the 10th of January.

Youth Secretary Reports.

Comrade Darcy, national secretary of the Young Workers (Communist) League of America, stressed the necessity for closer co-operation between the league and the party. He pointed out the need for the district organizers getting to work in the campaign to establish a league unit in every place where there is a party unit.

Another Big Conference Soon.

Another organization conference will be held soon.

It is now four months since the national convention was held. It appears certain that the entire party will be reorganized completely in less than the period provided for by the convention.

The reorganization has been met with greater enthusiasm and energy than the most optimistic in our ranks have hoped for and our main task at this time is to activate, to energize, the new shop and street nuclei, to make out of these units real living, fighting units of the Workers (Communist) Party.

DELEGATES MUST ATTEND SECTION CONFERENCES IN LOCAL CHICAGO

Election of delegates to the section conferences by the shop and street nuclei of the Workers (Communist) Party, Local Chicago have in most instances already taken place. The dates and places of the section conferences are as follows:

Section No. 5, Wednesday, Jan. 6, at W. Carmon, 2406 North Clark street.

Section No. 6, Thursday, Jan. 7, at Biltmore Theater, 3rd floor, 2046 W. Division street.

Section 4—January 12, place to be announced later.

The comrades in the various sections should take note and be sure to be present at their section meeting, to be assigned definitely to their units.