

Our Party's Election Campaign

(Continued)

By JAY LOVESTONE

IN ORDER to mobilize more effectively the Party and greater non-Party masses, as well as in some instances to meet certain technical legal requirements, in order to dramatize before the American workers the plan of the Party to participate effectively in the presidential election campaign, there were organized a number of state conventions and a national convention for the purpose of adopting the Communist election platform and selecting standard bearers. Already more than 20 states, among these such southern states as Virginia and Georgia have held state nominating conventions.

The National Nominating Convention took place at the end of May.

In the call issued by the Central Committee for the holding of these conventions, we find the following keynote struck:

"In the presidential campaign of this year, the class conscious workers must mobilize the working masses and unify all the struggles against the exploiters. The Workers (Communist) Party is the only Party of working class struggle in the United States. Our Party is a party of revolutionary class struggle. We are not only vigorous participants but energetic leaders in all the struggles of our working class. The Central Executive Committee is calling this National Nominating Convention in order to mobilize more effectively our Party's resources for participation in the coming presidential elections with a view towards utilizing this election campaign for arousing and organizing more effective resistance by the working class to the capitalist offensive."

worker who signified his intention to join the Party. That is killing two birds with one shot, alright.

The Communist Campaign is now beginning to get into its stride. The need for sufficient finances, however, is a great drawback. Thousands of dollars must come into campaign headquarters immediately, in order to help finance the tremendous printing program mapped out by the National Election Campaign Committee. Contributions should be sent in at once to Alexander Trachtenberg, treasurer, 43 E. 125th St., New York City.

State and National Nominating Conventions of the Workers (Communist) Party

The National Nominating Convention was called for the purpose of adopting an election platform, nominating presidential candidates and electing a national campaign committee. The entire Party was mobilized for this convention.

Wide Representation.

Delegates from factories, mines, mills, from organizations of the Negro masses, from societies of the oppressed colonial and semi-colonial masses of Latin America, from working class women's organizations, striking miners, textile workers and needle trades workers, were to be found in large numbers in all the state nominating conventions and particularly in the National Nominating Convention.

The number of delegates participating in the convention exceeded all expectations. There were 296 delegates from 39 states and the District of Columbia. There were about 150 fraternal delegates mostly non-party workers from trade unions, cooperatives, youth and working women's organizations, unemployment councils, Negro organizations, anti-imperialist societies, farmers organizations and Councils for the Protection of the Foreign Born Workers. The fraternal delegates especially, were elected at mass meetings of workers. Amongst the regular delegates there were at least 25 Negro workers. Amongst the fraternal delegates there were representatives from Nicaragua, Chile, Mexico, Haiti and Canada.

Proletarian Spirit.

Never before was there so much enthusiasm manifested at a gathering of Communists in the United States at the National Nominating Convention. The bourgeois press was compelled to admit that it was the biggest and most enthusiastic gathering of this kind that they have yet seen. Delegates came all the way from the Pacific Coast to New York by "hopping freights" "riding the rods," because of the high railroad fare. Some came by autobuses, others "hiked", still others organized special tours by automobile, piling in a number of workers into one old second-hand cheap car, secured at an insignificant price, sufficient for making one trip and return, in order to avoid the heavy cost of railroad fare.

Significance of Convention.

The National Nominating Convention was significant in five main respects:

First, there were a large number of delegates who are native Americans. The American bourgeoisie have been pounding away for some time on the fact that our Party has to date largely attracted foreign born workers. The latter are the workers found primarily in the basic, heavy industries.

Second, in this convention, there were delegates who had won the confidence of the masses through years of struggle in the early Anarchist movement, Syndicalist movement, and the old Socialist movement as well as in the trade union movement. This convention presented our Party as the inheritor of the best and revolutionary traditions of all these movements.

Third, the Convention clearly established the fact that our Party was the sole champion of the Negroes, the colonial masses, the workers battling against the mine owners, the exploited farming masses, the working class women and youth. The large number of Negro delegates participating in the work and leadership of the Convention was symbolic of the determination of the Party to break through and enter the "Solid South" and very clearly distinguished our Party from the parties of the big and small bourgeoisie — the Republican, Democratic and Socialist parties—in which the Negroes were either segregated or given a back seat.

Fourth, the Nominating Convention brought into bold relief the fact that our Party is now national in scope. Our Party has been called by the reactionary trade union bureaucracy and other capitalist organs, an "eastern" party. At the Convention, there were represented delegates from Maine to California and from Texas to Vermont. Every section of the country was represented. Delegations of striking miners and textile workers from New England and from the Pennsylvania-Ohio and West Virginia coal fields played a conspicuous role in the Convention.

Finally, the Convention emphasized to the American workers the

fact that our Party is an international party, a section of the Communist International. The greetings from the Communist International evoked tremendous enthusiasm. The election victories of the Communist parties of Germany, France and Poland were of striking and basic importance for us in securing the effective mobilization of our party members and sympathetic non-party masses for the election campaign. The convention denounced the criminal Shakhftin conspirators against the Soviet Union now on trial in Moscow. Pledges of revolutionary proletarian solidarity were made to the Communist Parties of Great Britain, Germany, Soviet Union, France, Poland, etc.

The convention selected Comrades Foster and Gitlow as the presidential standard bearers in the election campaign and adopted the Party election platform.

(To be Continued)

Record U. S. Exports for 6-Month Period

WASHINGTON, August 1 (UP).—U. S. exports of merchandise during the first six months of 1928 were larger in volume than for the corresponding of any other year, a commerce department survey showed today.

Exports of gold during the fiscal year ending June 30 totalled \$627,102,000, which was the largest outward movement of gold on record. Imports of Gold during the 12 months totalled \$129,139,000.

Merchandise exports for the fiscal year totalled \$4,877,000,000. Imported merchandise was valued at \$4,146,000,000.

Cotton exports were about 30 per cent smaller in volume than in 1926-27, because of the decrease in the American crop, but higher average prices for cotton caused the total value in cotton exports to decrease by only 5.4 per cent.

CITED FOR "BRAVERY"

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, August 1.—Three American marines were cited here for bravery in their action against the Sandino Army of Independence by the United States commander of the Nicaraguan National Guard.

Their brave action consisted in throwing bombs and turning machine guns upon a small group of Sandino's followers.