

Workers Party Achievements and Weaknesses Reported by Jay Lovestone

SEVENTH INSTALLMENT.

(Continued from Yesterday.)

"Finally, in speaking of bourgeoisification we must have in mind not only its material but also its ideological expression. Ideological bourgeoisification is very great in the United States. Not only the labor aristocracy, but the overwhelming majority of the American working class is ideologically bourgeoisified by the effects of imperialism. Notice the big mass following of a working class character that the republican and democratic parties have. Notice the weakness of the labor party movement. Notice the weakness of our own Party.

"But the outlook for the effects of imperialism, continuing the way they have in recent years, is not as bright as it previously was. America today is not alone in the world market as England was. There are also increasing revolutionary movements amongst the colonial masses. And we never can overlook the basic effect of the existence of the Soviet Union.

"With this as a background what has the Party done? What are the tasks of the Party? I do not desire to elaborate at length. You comrades here being the most active forces in the Party know very well of the recent activities of our Party. I want merely to enumerate them.

"First of all the strengthening of the Party organization. The Central Committee considers it a task of major importance to build and strengthen the Party apparatus. If we do not utilize this present opportunity we certainly will not be able to do it when the attacks against our Party will be of a much more fundamental character. In this respect the strengthening of the Party apparatus is indicated in the following ways:

"Despite severe unemployment and the lockout of the miners we have today close to 12,000 dues paying members in the Party, or a larger number than those in our Party when we first went to the job of reorganizing it on the basis of shop and street nuclei.

"It is my opinion that on the aver-

age not more than 65 to 70 per cent of the active Party membership is paid up in its dues. I say we would not exaggerate, considering the unemployment situation. For instance take the Cleveland district with the heavy cut in our ranks there; in so far as dues payment is concerned, the Cleveland district shows only 21 exempt stamps. There are several hundred Party members in the Cleveland district who are not registered as exempt stamp buyers—yet are just as good active members as the others but whom we can not and will not, and never will drop as members merely because they are not taking dues stamps. They are unemployed.

"This strengthening of the Party apparatus is shown also in the improvement in the center thru its increasing direction of Party activities and attention to details—yes, the smallest details of the Party work.

"Secondly, the labor party and election campaigns. Here we may say that in certain districts the Party has shown increasing vitality. Take the situation in the New York elections. Also, the fact that for the

first time the Party here ran in the industrial section of the New York district, the most industrial section, New Jersey. The situation in San Francisco where our Party received a vote bigger than the socialist party must also be cited. Take the situation in Minnesota where our Party is the driving force in the labor party movement.

"Thirdly, substantial headway has been made in the trade union work. With the help of the Party there was held a national conference of the left wing for the first time in five years in the United States. The resistance, successful resistance, and fighting power of the left wing in the needle trades is due primarily to the direction and activities of the Party. The improvement of the Party work in the trade unions is further indicated in the improvement of the trade union press.

"A few words about the mining campaign. This is the basic trade union campaign of the Party. The Central Committee considers that no resources are too great, no sacrifices

are too great for us, in mobilizing the Party to the fullest extent in the mining campaign. Already we have a new period in the mining struggle. Comrade Foster will analyse this at length in his report, but let me state that our Party is showing increasing results in the miners' union.

"In Colorado we have not only checked certain dangerous policies on the part of the dominant I. W. W. leadership but we have also laid the basis for the first time of building Party units there.

"A few words about Russian recognition and defense. The trade union delegations which have sailed from this country do not compare with the German or British delegations but certainly the objective conditions in the American labor movement are not comparable to the conditions and the degree of class consciousness in Germany or Great Britain. Our Party has been an instrumental force in driving the progressives and the left wingers to make a success out of the moves for delegations and has in this fashion served to make the question of Russian recognition

and the popularization of the Soviet Union a basic, living force in the trade union movement.

"Unemployment: In certain localities we have done well. For instance, in the Cleveland district:

"Fighting the war danger; in the case of Nicaragua and in the case of the protests against the massacres in Canton our Party has achieved some results.

"The Young Workers League, with the help of our Party, is today, positively on the road of constructive and effective mass work. I cite its anti-militarist activities and particularly its activities in the mining campaigns.

"The foreign born, the women's work, the Negro work—here we have certain small achievements.

"In the fight against injunctions the Party has responded well, as has been indicated by resolutions adopted in many local unions and in the distribution of a half million leaflets.

"The ideological strengthening of the Party must be emphasized not only in the effective campaign

against the Trotsky Opposition, but also in the setting up of workers' schools, the national training school and the growth of the number of open forums thruout the districts. I think that our Party can be very proud of the fact of not only the overwhelming majority but almost unanimously the Party has been on the side of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, has followed the Comintern line against the anti-Leninist, Menshevik, Trotskyist line.

"In agricultural work we have made slight headway in improving our organization and propaganda—helping to change the monthly into a weekly organ.

"Party unification: Great headway has been made by the Party in consolidating its forces and unifying its ranks on the basis of the resolution of the last convention. In the center the tendency of disappearance of old group lines has been marked. The process is not complete. The process has to be pushed with increasing vigor.

(To be continued.)