

Towards the 5th Year

By JAY LOVESTONE

ALTOGETHER too many of us were sceptical when the Central Committee first considered launching The DAILY WORKER.

Some said we must first have a Party of a hundred thousand members.

Others declared that the Party itself could not carry the Daily, and that we had to secure the financial partnership of some of the then progressive trade unions.

The sceptics and doubters in our ranks reasoned this way:

It is very difficult to maintain a

Communist Party in the United States at present. It is infinitely more difficult to maintain a Communist daily.

"Yes," they said, "it is impossible to have a Communist daily now."

But our Central Committee acted with Communist determination, with revolutionary, proletarian optimism and faith. We brushed aside all pessimism, all scepticism, all lack of faith in the will, in the ability and in the loyalty of the progressives of the left wing and the class-conscious workers to strike blows for their class interests.

The past four years show that the Party registered a major and inspir-

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ing achievement in building The DAILY WORKER.

It's true we have had difficulties of untold number and of immeasurable seriousness. It's true we have made mistakes. Every worker who has the least spark of class pride, of revolutionary spirit, knows that The Daily Worker has been a proletarian oasis in the American capitalist desert, the beacon of the working class in the fogs and storms besetting the masses in capitalist America.

It is indeed a test of strength, it's really a test of one's basic mettle, to maintain and strengthen a Communist daily in the face of the most powerful imperialism in the world, in the face of a working class being infested with the vilest labor-fakers who have ever sapped the vitality of any labor movement, in the face of such a reptile capitalist press as the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, the Boston Transcript, the Los Angeles Times, the Philadelphia Public Ledger and a pack of lesser lights. It is truly a genuine tribute to the fighting qualities of our class-conscious workers that we have kept a-going and ever improving the world's only Communist daily in the English language.

What has the daily done? How has the daily served the workers in its first four years?

Too many to recount are the blows The Daily Worker has already struck for the American working class. We will merely give a cursory, a most inadequate sketch of some of the inestimable services rendered by The Daily Worker to the American proletariat year by year.

1924. This was our first year. The daily set the pace in the fight for a labor party. It blew the lid off the Teapot Dome. It turned the searchlight on William J. Burns, while Gompers & Co. were still hobnobbing with him against militant workers before Senate committees. It blew the breath of life into the big campaigns for the recognition of the Soviet Union. The Daily Worker was the best platform our party had in its first national presidential campaign.

1925. The fight of the anthracite miners was pushed to the limit. The organization of the International Labor Defense was much aided. The class collaboration mania of the corrupt trade union bureaucracy was given deadly blows. The Daily Worker went a long way towards breaking down the isolation of the left wing and the Communists in the trade union movement, and towards building up a sound basis for a mass left wing movement among the American workers.

1926. Into the campaign to save the Miners Union. The aroused textile workers of Passaic could always



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count on unstinted support in The Daily Worker. Ask the New York garment workers how sorely they would have missed The Daily Worker's help in their battle for better conditions, for higher wages, for their union!

1927. A scorching searchlight was turned on the Yankee imperialistic onslaught on Nicaragua. The ugly face of Wall Street was exposed in its war maneuvers against Mexico. The dire threats of the growing war danger were brought home to scores of thousands of workers after the cold-blooded massacre at Nanking. The fraud of American prosperity and the sufferings of great masses of our workers and farmers were made clear with striking effect. The heavy hand of the strike-breaking Federal government was raised over us and still menaces us. The capitalist dictatorship knows no place for the daily champion of the workers.

1928. We have only started. The daily is in the thick of the fight against injunctions.

The alarm has been sounded to arouse the workers to save the unions from destruction.

The most consistent and energetic champion of the locked-out miners of Pennsylvania and Ohio, fighting with

their backs to the wall, and the striking coal-diggers of Colorado is The Daily Worker. The Daily Worker is today, through its strong fight for miners' relief, doing more than any other instrument to drive starvation and misery from the barracks in which the coal miners' families live.

The murder of Nicaraguans fighting for liberty is being brought to the painful consciousness of thousands of workers.

The forces for the united front of the workers and exploited farmers in the 1928 presidential elections—into a National Labor Party—are being mobilized.

The Daily Worker continues as a powerful machine for building a mass Communist Party in the United States in the face of tremendous objective difficulties.

What more could any worker ask? We haven't begun to tell the indispensable role The Daily Worker plays in the class struggle.

Some of us who have founded the Daily are gone. Comrade Ruthenberg, our leader, is dead. His determination and inspiring force in launching the daily and keep it a-going, we sorely miss. But the inspiration we draw, and the courage we derive from Comrade Ruthenberg's achievements are of monumental help to us in our sustaining and improving The Daily Worker.

We are on the road towards a mass Communist paper, towards a mass Daily Worker in the United States. Every worker must help as never before. The Daily Worker is the heart of all the constructive, fighting left wing, honest workers in the whole labor movement.

Towards the fifth year! Let's begin it right! Let's double the circulation! Let's double the contributions! Let's save our standard of living by saving and building The Daily Worker! Let's put a halt to the growing war danger by making The Daily Worker invulnerable—yes, invincible!

This is our duty for the fifth year. We are asking little. There is much to be done.

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