

Rally to the Young Workers Conference in Bellaire, Ohio

UNITY YOUNG AND ADULT WORKERS IS KEYNOTE OF YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Conference Must Get the Young Workers Interested in the Activities of the Union. It Must Bring Pressure to Bear on the Unions for the Discussion of Young Workers' Problems.

By GEORGE PAPCUN,

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The working youth conference of East Ohio convenes this Sunday, Feb. 28, in Bellaire. From all reports at least thirty delegates will be present.

This conference will be of tremendous significance. This is true not only for the young workers—particularly the young miners, but to the workers generally. Take for example the disaster in the mine in Shadyside which cost the miners nine lives. The trade union officials do not bother much about the immediate welfare of the miners.

Operators Cause Accidents.

It is in this instance and in many others, where it says in the agreement that things of this kind should be taken care of (i. e. timbering, keeping the mine and wiring in shape, etc.) that we find the agreement not being lived up to. This mine where the disaster occurred,

in particular, was supposed to be one of the "best" mines as far as safety devices are concerned. Just because of little things such as timbering the accident occurred and nine miners gave their lives for the profits of the boss. It is this carelessness that the coal operators practice which cost the miners hundreds of lives each year.

Safety Slogans the Bunk.

The company has a lot of slogans put up around the mine in a style that catches the eyes of the workers but the company itself does not put the safety measures into effect. Especially right after accidents occur in and around the mines the "benevolent" operators start a safety campaign which lasts for a short time and then is completely forgotten.

The Young Workers (Communist) League as the fighting organization of the young workers sees the problems that face the young workers. It tries to mobilize them for the bettering of these conditions. If the prospective demand No. 1 of the Young Workers' Conference had been put into effect this accident would never have occurred.

Young Workers Discuss Problems.

The young workers have a lot of things to discuss in the conference. They must discuss what attitude they will take towards the trade union bureaucracy and how they are going to help make the United Mine Workers a fighting organization of the coal diggers. The young miners must see in what way they can help in building up the left wing in the miners' union. It must find ways and means of waking up the masses of the young

workers who have not up till now participated in the activities of the miners' union for the reason that the union did not take up the problems which interested them.

The young workers' conference must see that it gets the young workers interested in the activities of the union. Also that it brings pressure in the union for the discussion of the youth problems. The U. M. W. A. must do these things with the idea that it is building up the future leaders of the labor movement.

Unite Young and Adult Workers.

The conference must result in bringing closer relations between the young and adult workers so that the adult workers will not become part of discriminatory tactics against the young workers.

It was to the intersets of the left wing that the local unions endorsed the call of the Y. W. L. for the youth conference, because it was the first time in the history of the working class youth, that a conference was called where the young workers come together on an equal footing to discuss the problems which face them.

The Young Workers (Communist) League depends on the support of the adult Communists and the militants in the unions of East Ohio and vicinity for its energetic support to make this conference a rallying point for the masses of young workers.

The East Ohio young workers' conference starts tomorrow in Bellaire, Ohio. This conference is a definite sign of the awakening of the young workers of America to a recognition of the discriminatory conditions under which they labor. It is easily understood why the young workers of this section should be amongst the first to gather together in such a conference to discuss their conditions.

In this section, coal mining is the principal industry. A large number of the coal miners are young workers. They have been going thru a period of semi-employment, similar to the rest of the soft coal industry for many months.

Poor Wages.

Even when working, they receive very poor wages. The tonnage men receive only 78 cents per ton, and without receiving any additional wages, have to remove about a foot of slate. They also have to set posts and lay tracks, all of which takes a considerable time, without receiving any extra compensation.

Most of the young workers are employed as motormen, trip-riders, drivers, door tenders and other such work which requires ability to work very fast. Their work is very dangerous and many accidents occur frequently.

A young miner from this district sums up the situation in the following language:

Conditions in Ohio Mines.

"The conditions in the union fields are much better than in the non-union. The only reason for this is the protection of the union. But despite this protection the coal operators have succeeded in starting a speed-up system in the mines that even Henry Ford would have a hard time to beat. A large percentage of the young workers are employed at hauling coal either with motors on which two men must work or with mules.

The companies have gradually given them more mines to haul from and still expect to get out the same amount of coal as before. In order to cut down expenses they are neglecting to keep the roads clean and are not timbering the entries.

"This allows the roof to come in and then only when the track is so dirty that it is impossible to get over it, will they clean it. This is dangerous as the brakemen are almost always running beside the trips and it is very easy to slip on a piece of coal or slate and fall, throwing an arm or a leg under a moving trip.

"Also where the hauling is done by motors the trolley wire is usually

PROPOSED DEMANDS FOR YOUNG WORKERS' CONFERENCE IN E. OHIO

For All Young Workers.

1. A six-hour day, five-day week, with no night work or overtime. Exception to be made only in case of emergencies in the mines, said emergency to be understood as when mine would be unable to work the next day. Overtime must be paid at time and a half rate.

2. Establishment of work school for young workers, to be financed by the bosses and supervised by the unions.

3. Two weeks vacation with pay each year for all young workers under 18 years of age.

For All Young Miners.

1. All tracks, roadways and manholes to be kept clean; timbering and wiring to be kept in shape to avoid accidents. No loader to be responsible for this work, but it should be done by day men.

2. Equal wages for trappers, couplers, greasers, car cleaners or slatpickers, to correspond with adult company hands, either inside or outside.

3. Abolition of the tonnage system and institution of straight day wages and weekly pay.

4. A minimum wage of \$7.50 for all workers in the mines, if thru no cause of their own, they do not receive a full day's work.

5. Wash houses and individual towels to be supplied free by the company.

6. Provision by company of pit clothes whenever necessary.

7. Unemployment benefits to be paid during shutdowns at prevailing union wages from special funds to be established by setting aside part of profits of coal operators, this fund to be supervised by local union of U. M. W. A.

8. Two rooms for two miners in machine work in room and pillar.

9. Men to be transported to and from work when entry is over half mile long.

10. All tools, powder and implements necessary shall be furnished free by the company.

11. From the U. M. W. A. we want that for all young workers under 21 years of age the initiation fees and dues be one-half of the regular amount and full rights and benefits be given.

12. The central labor bodies and local unions must energetically undertake the organization of the unorganized young workers.

13. Abolition of the automatic penalty clause.

General Demands.

1. Free the Moundsville prisoners and Domenick Ventureta.

2. For a labor party.

3. For world trade union unity.

loose. A little fall from the roof will tear down 150 or 200 feet of it. To get hit by this wire means instant death as there is from 250 to 500 volts in it."

For Youth Demands.

The young workers' conference will brace up the entire labor movement. The keynote of the conference must be united action by young adult workers, on behalf of the youth demands. The unions of the workers must be strengthened by the union devoting greater attention to the conditions of the young workers and thus solidifying the bond between the young and



adult workers.

This conference of young workers, the first of its kind in America, means a big step forward in the awakening of class consciousness among the young American workers.

YOUNG WORKERS' CONFERENCE IN BELLAIRE THIS SUNDAY

Three Organizers Handled Final Drive. At Least Thirty Delegates Will Be Present. The Struggle Against Rotten Conditions of Youth and Danger of New War Will Be Center Point of Discussion and Decisions.

BELLAIRE, Ohio.—Three organizers of the Young Workers (Communist) League are now in the Eastern Ohio coal mining fields in the final drive of intensive concentration upon this area for the young workers' conference which is to take place in Bellaire tomorrow, February 28. Harvey Murphy, who has been in the field for a couple of weeks, now reports that at least thirty delegates will be present at the conference. Joe Kobylak, well-known in the field for his work in Dillonvale, and August Valentine, who has recently returned from the anthracite strike field, are also working for the conference.

Young Workers Rally to the Conference

BELLAIRE, Ohio.—One of the first signs of a spirited revival of the labor movement of Eastern Ohio, following upon long months of depression and hopelessness, is the readiness of the young workers of the entire section to respond to the call which was issued some time ago by the Young Workers arrangements' committee for a conference of the young workers of the region.

The organizers of the conference already report that despite the difficulties to be encountered in this section of the country, there will be delegates from the coal mines of Powhatan Point, Yorkville, Neffs, the famous Webb mine of Shadyside, which has been the scene of terrible disaster for the miners, the Imperial Glass concern in Bellaire which has just experienced a strike of young workers, a local union of the United Mine Workers of Avella, Pa., which is sending three delegates, one of whom is a young Negro, and a number of other mines and factories.

The bad conditions of the young miners and other young workers in particular accounts for the swiftness with which they are rallied to the call for the conference, despite the fact that there had not been any elaborate preparations for the meeting.

For weeks, the young workers of the Imperial Glass works of Bellaire have been out on strike, and only because of the brutal terrorism of the officials and the kept press were most of them driven back to work, and the militants who remained out were blacklisted. The brave fight that they put up dur-

ing the time they were out, in the face of the great obstacles that stood in their way, is a tribute to the fighting spirit of the young workers there. They have learned the lesson of organization and will be represented at the conference tomorrow.

In the Webb mine at Shadyside, the workers have learned some bitter lessons from capitalist society. When the Webb mine explosion took place they also learned about the "risks of industry" which the capitalist is supposed to take and which the worker alone actually takes.

From Wheeling, the center of "Little Siberia," as West Virginia is known to the workers, there will be representatives of the young workers employed in the can company, a breach in the armor of the bosses which promises much for the future.

From every other important town in the field there will be representatives. The desperate situation of the working class youth there will be considered and a well-thought out plan of action will be adopted at the conference to serve as a guide to action for the fight against the problems that face the young workers: the struggle against the pauperization of the youth, and the fight against the menace of new imperialist wars.

The success of this conference will be a signal for the repetition of this work in every field of any importance in the country. Young workers! Rally to the conference! Besides sending your delegates, come to the conference in mass.