

WITH THE YOUNG WORKERS

CONDUCTED - BY THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE

PENNSYLVANIA STATE LABOR MUST LIVE UP TO ANTI-MILITARY DECISION

By GEORGE PAPCUN

PITTSBURGH, Pa., — The American Federation of Labor met last month. The class conscious youth, and the workers in general looked at the Federation of Labor to see what it would do on the matter of the Citizens' Military Training Camps. Especially the workers of Pennsylvania were looking to the American Federation of Labor to see what would happen on this question as the State Federation of Labor condemned the Citizens' Military Training Camps most vigorously and declared that the Citizens Military Training Camps were run by large open shop employers and that these open shop employers dominated the policy of these camps, and tried to see that the camps turned out scabs and strike-breakers.

Workers Disillusioned.

But if any worker had the illusion that the American Federation of Labor would condemn the Citizens Military Training Camps and would fight against them, well, they have been disillusioned. Not only that but it seems that because the State Federation of Labor demanded "that the convention of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor condemn the purpose and function of the Citizens Military Training Camps and oppose every move on the part of the employers to organically connect the American Federation of Labor with the War Department to further aid the bloody plans of the imperialists or to in any way help in the recruiting of young workers expected to serve as cannon fodder in the next war," the reactionaries in the A. F. of L. went out of their way by not not only ignoring the resolution as they usually do on such a proposition but actually have taken the first step in connecting the A. F. of L. with the War Department. The executive council did this by visiting the C. M. T. C. before the convention of the A. F. of L. and bringing in a report by which it claimed that the workers benefitted from the training that they received in these camps and that it taught them to become better citizens and that they improved by the discipline and it was claimed by some that they developed good trade union members.

Open Shoppers Favor C. M. T. C.

The workers must find out for themselves, they do not even have to go into the Citizens Military Training Camps but only look over the list of the chief backers of the C. M. T. C., the trade union smashing capitalists, to see whether or not these individuals could pursue a policy of making good trade union members out of the young workers who are lured to the camps. A few of them are J. P. Morgan & Co., the Pennsylvania R. R. System, Armour & Co., American Sugar Refining Co., Western Electric Co. These companies contribute in one way or another to the Citizens Military Training Camps. Besides such notorious people as Atterbury, Charles G. Dawes and Guy E. Tripp of the General Electric Co., are on the advisory committee of the C. M. T. C. association. Now could any of the above train good union members for the labor movement when all of them are openly against trade unionism even in the form as expressed at the present time by William Green, the president of the A. F. of L. They will not even except his crawling and picking up the crumbs which they throw to him.

The only way that the A. F. of L. will be forced to fight against the C. M. T. C. and against the connecting of the A. F. of L. with the War Department is if the rank and file puts up a fight in its unions as can be clearly shown that it was not the leadership of the labor movement in Pennsylvania who wanted the resolution passed but it was the rank and file. The resolutions committee which was composed of the following officials: John A. Phillips, Typographical Union; Thomas Kennedy, U. M. W. A.; Peter Bollenbacher, Brewery Workmen; Isaac L. S. Smink, Typographical; Rinaldo Capellini, U. M. W. A., brought in a recommendation that the resolution on the C. M. T. C. be not concurred in, but in spite of the fact, the convention concurred in it by 100 votes in favor and 20 in opposition. It would be well to take into consideration the discussion which went on and who was the one who opposed the recommendations of the resolution committee.

In the whole discussion with the exception of President Maurer who spoke against the resolutions committee we did not have another official in the convention that spoke for the resolution. All others were rank and filers. Each one of them condemned militarism, some of them who have been across and have been fighting in the last world war for "democracy," in no uncertain terms condemned militarism in every form.

A Rank and File Resolution.

Though the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor has passed the resolution in Pennsylvania as yet the executive council does not seem to be carrying out the decisions of the state federation. The resolution called; "that the incoming executive council of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor be instructed to immediately

wage a state-wide agitation and organization campaign against the Citizens Military Training Camps." As yet this has been left undone. It also instructed its delegates as follows: "that we instruct our delegate to the forthcoming convention of the A. F. of L. to present this resolution to work, speak, and lobby for its passage, to commit the American Federation of Labor to a policy of opposing the C. M. T. C." But according to reports which came from the convention about all that the delegate did was present it. He did not speak for it, doubtful if he did very much else to see that it was passed. He meekly stomached the resolution presented by the executive council and did not even vote in opposition to the executive council's report, according to reports. The way that a struggle against militarism must be developed in Pennsylvania is thru the young workers themselves engaging in the struggle to force the State Federation of Labor to live up to its decisions at its last convention. And not only start a fight in Pennsylvania against militarism but in the United States as a whole.

Jingo Youth Bodies Adopt New Name

Mergers seems to be the order of the day and the "boy misleader" patriotic organizations are no exception to the rule. The United Americans, an organization formed to inject the jingo brand of Americanism into the foreign-born youth, has merged with the American Sentinels which performs the same operation on the native youth. The merged body is now known as the American Citizenship Foundation. The Executive Committee includes a well-known list of militarists and capitalists among which are, Joseph B. Strauss, president; Admiral William A. Moffatt, U. S. N., director-general; John J. Mitchell, treasurer. By its close alliance with such bodies as the American Legion, the C. M. T. C. and R. O. T. C. the organization is organically connected with the war department.

Oppose Evangelical Child Labor

NEW YORK CITY—The American Association for the Advancement of Atheism has accused Dr. John Roach Straton, fundamentalist pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of "religious profiteering" and "in illegally employing a child evangelist."

The letter of the association to the pastor declares in part: "Having made your charges against us of being immoral, why not seek to justify them in public? You are quite welcome to address our meetings in Carnegie Hall Sunday evenings. If there are among us any assassins like David, any cut-throats like Moses, and degenerates like Lot, we want to know it."

The association conducts a regular open forum in Carnegie Hall every Sunday evening and all young workers are invited to hear the arguments of superstition vs. the materialistic point of view.

Continue Military Preps.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The young workers should begin looking towards the next session of congress which convenes in December which will continue the frenzied war preparations. The bill which is alleged to conscript labor and capital during a period of war will come up for quick action. The real intent of the bill is to create a dictatorship with absolute powers to conscript labor power—and the government will co-operate with the big capitalists to regulate production.

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