

"It's a Big Country"

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE.

The Workers Party at work in a big country. The country is big in every respect—in geographical extension, in population, in historical role, and in the magnitude of the problems that its working class faces.

The opportunities for work and struggle are enormous. The Workers Party stands virtually alone in the field. The socialist party, unlike the parties of some of the European countries, is numerically weaker than the Workers Party. What is more important, it has dropped pretty largely the pretense of being a class struggle party and made itself openly an appendage of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy, which, in turn, becomes ever more openly a tool of big business in the labor movement.

Reaction Increasing.

In the face of the tremendous power of big business and the brutal sway of reaction in domestic and foreign governmental affairs, with the working class virtually unorganized polit-

months. Had to sell the stove and kitchen cabinet to get something to eat for the family?"

"And what about the family next to us who hasn't paid any rent in several months?" I asked, "how long has your neighbor been out of work?"

"For about six months."

"Who did he work for?"

"He is a railroad workman and since the shop closed down last summer he has been unable to find any other employment."

Talking about the old clothes, Mrs. A. Said: "The schoolteacher who stays in my house said that many of her children come to school barefooted and in old ragged clothes. Sometimes they don't come at all." I asked why they were absent, and she answered that "they didn't have anything to wear."

—C. D.

New York

Slaughter House Workers.

I work in the slaughter house of George Kern and Co. on 11th Avenue and 40th Street, New York City where I am a bologna maker. There are over 2000 slaughter house workers in the abattoirs of New York City, most of them in the district along the North River from 40 to 42nd Street. In Kern's, hog-killers, drivers, hog-cutters, shipping men, cellar men, who do the pickling, and bologna makers, all make from \$28 to \$33 a week. The work is very dangerous and the terrible speed up adds to our dangers. Blood, filthy entrails of the hogs, and the rotten sickening smell of the place are but a part of all the foul conditions we have to face for \$28 to \$33 a week. In 1919 we had a general strike of slaughter house workers in the entire East. 20,000 workers went out. We won the shop steward system and

ically and so inadequately unorganized on the economic field, the Workers Party has tremendous tasks and a boundless field for work. All that are needed are trained forces in sufficient abundance to meet all the needs of the labor movement. There are the unorganized industries to be organized—basic industries like autos, steel, rubber. Even the saving of the miners union threatened with destruction is inseparable from the problem of organizing the unorganized fields and of organizing the left wing where the union exists. There is from 85 to 90 percent of the working class to organize. And for the organized there is the problem of giving militant leadership and modern fighting organizational forms. There is the Labor Party to build. There is the Workers Party to build. There are vast stretches of the farther west where the Workers Party has only a little handful of members or none at all. And there is the rapidly industrializing south in which the Party has not even a foothold.

Placed before such a situation and such opportunities, the party's sphere of work is limited not by the possibilities of the situation but by the lack of sufficient trained forces capable of undertaking all the gigantic tasks placed upon it. To meet this situation, the three-months' full-time day training course of the Workers School will be inaugurated next Wednesday night at the mass meeting at Irving Plaza Hall, 15th street and Irving Place.

Workers' Leaders.

The school will take first-line workers from every district, workers like Ben Gold, Carl Hacker, Tom Fleming, and V. Dart, who have proved themselves by years of devoted activity, workers who have demonstrated their fighting ability and determination to devote their whole life to the revolutionary movement, and it will train them for better service in that movement. The aim of the training course is to give more and better leadership, more conscious leadership to the labor movement.

The Workers School will give no diplomas to its graduates. They will not be fitted upon completion of the course to take up some work outside of the boundaries of the working class. There is no room in the school for "chronic students" who never leave the world of books. Theory is studied for the sake of practice and practice is raised to the level of theory as it is taught at the Workers School. Its graduates are trained for better fighting against the most powerful capitalist class the world has ever known. And one thing only the school guarantees to its "students"—that they will find plenty of ways to put their knowledge to use after they finish the course. For after all, as we said in opening—it's a big country. And there's always plenty of room on the firing line.