

Labor in the Far East

Yesterday we read of the activities of the different Red Labor Unions of Indonesia and the terrific persecution against them. Today we read in the second article by Comrade Semaoen, of the General Labor Federation, the relation of the Communists and these Red Unions to it, of the fight by the left wing for control of these unions in order to bring to the workers a beneficial policy of class struggle.

ARTICLE II.

By SEMAOEN.

THERE is a Red Labor secretariat in Indonesia acting as the central body regulating the general propaganda of these unions and linking them up with the movement abroad. This does not, however, mean that these organizations have left the General Federation of Trade Unions, the chairman of which is a so-called "neutral" leader (neither Communist nor nationalist, but only a trade unionist). The executive committee of the General Federation is made up of Communists and nationalists.

To this federation there are also affiliated the reformist teachers' unions (6,000 members, among whom there are of course Communists to be found); the Union of Government and Public Workers (4,000 members); the Union of Pawnshop employes (3,000 members), for the most part opposed to their so-called "leader," Surjopranoto, a reformist-nationalist, opposed to the Communists; and other small reformist unions like that of the opium sellers (who are in government service, the opium trade being a state monopoly, as is also the case in regard to the pawnshops!)

These small unions have a total membership of about 3,000. The quality of those unions is low because inside there is a constant internecine

struggle between the many national leaders, the "neutral" leaders, and the Communists.

LET us take for example, the pawnshop employes' union. Its 1924 congress decided to elect Sosrokardono a revolutionary as chairman, as well as many Communists to the central committee. Thereupon the retiring chairman, Surjopranoto, stayed in to nominate himself chairman, and, together with the minority, he "nationalized" the printing office, the bureau, administration and the name.

The police and the courts, refused, of course, to intervene in favor of the Communist majority. The question still remains unsettled and the brazen-faced Surjo held a "pawnshop congress" last June, visited of course, only by the minority, the majority not having been allowed to attend.

It is, therefore, small cause for wonder that these organizations have of late shown no increased activity. Only when the Communists succeed in capturing these unions will they play an active part in a progressive movement. The history of the pawnshop employes' union, shows, however, that the task of capturing it will be a difficult one indeed.

(Continued Tomorrow)

Moscow Will Need About 60,000 New Workers Next Year

MOSCOW, U. S. S. R., Dec. 21—In the Moscow industry during the current fiscal year from 60,000 to 70,000 new workers will be employed of which 40,000 to 50,000 will be skilled and semi-skilled. Of these 7,000 will enter the metal industry and 25,000 to 30,000 the textile industry.