

The Opening of the "Second Section" at Shanghai

IN opening the conference the Acting Secretary stated that no other evidence was needed to prove that the P.P.T.U. Movement was evolving a correct policy to fight imperialism than the energy displayed by the enemies of organized labor, who had systematically developed plans to prevent delegates from arriving at Vladivostok. He pointed out that the imperialist blockade, which was carried out with the assistance of the national traitors and reformists of the colonial and semi-colonial countries had made it necessary to convene the second section of the Conference at Shanghai.

By organizing this Conference in Shanghai, the II Conference of the Pan-Pacific Trade Unions had representatives present from every important country in the Pacific area. He welcomed the four delegates from the Nanyang Federation of Labor, whose jurisdiction covered a wide and important area.

It was no accident that Singapore should be the centre of such an important labor movement covering Sumatra, Borneo, New

Guinea, Java, Celebes, Malay Peninsula, Burma, Siam and Indo-China. Singapore is of equal strategic importance for the labor movement as the part it plays as a central outpost to British imperialism. To have delegates from this strategic point pledging the adherence of their organizations will greatly strengthen the position of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Movement.

The Conference was not unconnected with the main body at Vladivostok as the same questions were being discussed in both Conferences. However, due to the illegal situation which made it necessary to end the Shanghai Conference inside three days, it would leave the resolutions on the imperialist war danger and the fight against international reformism wholly to the Vladivostok Conference and confine itself to: (1) the Report of the Secretariat, (2) Sino-Russian crisis, (3) fight against reformism in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, (4) factory committees, (5) migration problems, (6) the organization of the unemployed, (7) youth and the trade unions, (8) the or-

ganization of women and children, and (9) the strengthening of the Filipino trade unions.

An obvious contrast existed between the bourgeois character of reformist trade union conferences in colonies and semi-colonies and the proletarian character of the P.P.T.U. Conference. The reformist conferences were largely made up of self-appointed and self-seeking "delegates" who had the backing of both the imperialists and their respective governments as well as every employer, while the Shanghai section of the P.P.T.U. Conference was almost totally represented by actual workers either elected directly by workers' conferences or by their respective executives.

The Conference included seamen, wharf laborers, rubber, timber, metal and clerical workers, a barber, a teacher, and the Chairman of the All-China Federation of Labor (only the latter being a paid official of the trade union movement).

With the exception of the Philippines, all came from trade unions which were forced to exist secretly due to persecution and white terror, inflicted upon them because of their strenuous fight against imperialist exploitation in their respective countries. Each delegate is given every opportunity to fully discuss every point, in contrast to the railroading of decisions which goes on at conferences of professional officials at reformist conferences.

