

The Significance of the Red Internat'l of Labor Unions

ALTOGETHER too few American workers know that the biggest trade union body of the world, the Red International of Labor Unions, issues an official organ of its Executive Bureau, "The Red International of Labor Unions." This issue now circulated here, Vol. I, combining No. 6 and 7, contains a wealth of material of great value to all workers, who may obtain it through the Trade Union Unity League.

A. LOSOVSKY, General Secretary of the R. I. L. U. explains the significance of the fact that "Social Imperialism is in Power," the fact that the so-called Labor Party must now demonstrate in practice the strength of its alleged "constructive socialism," how it proposes to realize its theory that workers can attain socialism without any revolutionary convulsions. It must show what its words about "peace and disarmament" are worth in deeds. Losovsky has some predictions on these matters which are summed up in saying that "the period during which these parties (the German social-democracy and the British Labor Party) are in power, will be a period in which the working masses will move away from the social democracy," disillusioned, and toward the Left.

IF the trade union masses must enter the struggle against war, and the "must" comes in not because anyone expects masses to hop about by command and without comprehension, but to be driven by deep necessity, then it is well that all active rank and file workers in trade unions know about "Amsterdam, the R. I. L. U. and the War Menace." We attempt to sum up this highly important article by saying: The Amsterdam International says that it is against all wars, but actually supports all capitalist wars and opposes only the class war. The Red International of Labor Unions is not against any and all war, but against imperialist war, while standing for the class war. It is against imperialist armies and in favor of the class army. "The difference," it says, "between the defense of an imperialist government, and the defense, with rifle in hand, of the Workers' government, is a big difference which must be understood and then acted upon."

IN all realignments of the imperialist governments, it is essential to look first for what changes occur in the war plans against the Soviet Union. In organizing an anti-Soviet bloc, international imperialism could not but assist the fascists to come to power in Poland and Lithuania, because fascism is the form of government best answering to the tasks imposed by war preparation. Fascism tries to do more than technical preparations—to mould the mass mind for war, to paralyze labor's class resistance. In Germany the socialists drive revolutionary workers out of factories, set up fascist groups and fascist mutual benefit bodies, and cultivate demagogic ideas of "national culture, traditions," etc., says an article on "International Fascism and War Danger."

What are the problems of the revolutionary workers in the British trade unions? Harry Pollitt tells of the development since the 1926 general strike up to the recent con-

ference of the (left wing) National Minority Movement.

THE International Labor Office (I.L.O.) of the notorious League of Nations not only perpetuates wage slavery, but plain ordinary slavery, which it politely terms "forced labor." There was once so much complaint about it that since 1924 the I.L.O. has been "investigating." After years and years it finally decided that it was a tough question, so instead of abolishing slavery, it passed some motions advising that imperialist powers should "regulate" it. And the imperialist powers at once said they would do just as they please and the I.L.O. can go to blazes—which Albert Thomas, of the I.L.O., hoped and knew they would say. The article on this is most interesting.

THE R.I.L.U. has a policy on Consumers' Cooperatives, and we wonder how many Communists know what it is. In the R.I.L.U. magazine a thorough treatment is given of the "Role of Consumers' Cooperatives During Economic Disputes." This is a matter in which workers' cooperatives in this country are far from satisfactory, and direction on this might help to clear up their general line, in which opportunism is rife.

THE struggle now going on inside sport movement in favor of independent working class sport and against capitalist beguilement of workers in company-union sports, proves that the sense of class feeling is growing among workers interested in sports. The R.I.L.U. desires that there should be the closest possible cooperation between its trade unions and workers sport organizations, so the latter may take active part in struggle against employers. This is of much importance in the U. S. where corporations use sports to keep young workers, especially, from organizing and striking.

HOW many members of the new unions of the Trade Union Unity League know of the importance of the Second Plenum of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union? It was held from May 27 to June 3. Have the papers of the new unions given this attention? The R.I.L.U. to which they are affiliated gives it about six pages, explaining: the place in the world trade union movement occupied by the trade unions of the U.S.S.R., the issue of the Five-Year-Plan; what the unions relation with this plan are, the "right" deviation in the unions, how they will apply the Plan, the fight against leaders who waver before huge tasks, and many other points.

THE "Tactics of R.I.L.U. Supporters in India" is advised as an article which not only analyzes the Indian labor movement, but which gives directions that will count for much in days to come. "The Struggle for Social Equality for Negroes in the South," by Jack Johnstone, an article on the Mexican trade unions, an account of the split in the Philippine unions, an article on the Australian Labor Movement which reveals a very important development, and an account of the split in the Foodworkers International, go to round out an issue of great importance for all militant unionists to study in the R.I.L.U. official organ, obtainable through the Trade Union Unity League.—H. G.