

"The idea becomes power when it penetrates the masses."
—Karl Marx.

SPECIAL MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT
THE DAILY WORKER

SECOND SECTION
This magazine supplement will appear every Saturday in The Daily Worker.

MARCH 21, 1925.

Party Construction in the C. I. Sections

By OSSIP PIATNITZKY.

(Continued from last Saturday.)

IN this article I will limit myself to a few facts from the German experience. In 1923 factories and workshops in Germany were, with a few exceptions minus party nuclei, but in the big factories and workshops Communists were members of factory and workshop committees.

As there were no nuclei even in the factories where Communists served on factory committees, there was no lead or control of the committees, thru any nucleus.

Besides, the Communists in the factory and workshop committees had no definite standing because they had no proper support due to the fact that the Communists in the factories were not co-ordinated into one body.

THE result was that the discontented workers of these factories and workshops were led and controlled by trade union representatives and members of the social-democratic party who played up to the mood of the workers, proposing radical resolutions, etc. But when these humbugs were given the leadership of the movement by the workers they did their utmost to hinder the movement and certainly did nothing to encourage it.

As yet there was no one who could have exposed all these Judases to the factory workers, for the Communists among them were not co-ordinated, they had no uniform leadership and were not all of them working for the same aim.

And Germany provided examples in the first half of 1924 during the big strikes in the Ruhr and the Hamburg district which showed clearly the difference in the leadership of the movement in factories, mines and docks; wherever nuclei existed, the leadership of the movement was entirely in the hands of the nucleus, while in factories where no nuclei existed, Communists acted against Communists and in some places Communist chairmen of meetings refused to put to the vote resolutions proposed by Communists.

THE same might be observed lately in Italy, in Milan and Turin. In works and factories with properly functioning nuclei the latter became the leading centers of these works and factories. The recent demonstrations of the Milan metal workers against the agreement of their fascist trade union with the metal industry employers were under the guidance of the factory nuclei of our party. Big workers' meetings which take place in Italy when the workers leave their factories at the end of the day's work and which are frequently attended by as many as 5,000 workers, have only become possible after the organization of nuclei in the factories, for it is they who organize these meetings and carry them thru.

ON the other hand, where factories in Italy have no party nuclei, or where these nuclei are not very active, there are no meetings, no demonstrations against trade unions and other fascist organizations.

Everything has been done by the Communist International to make the Communist parties of Europe and America realize the importance of creating correct forms of organization.

The theses and report of Comrade Zinoviev on the role of the party in the revolution presented at the Second Congress of the Communist International, Comrade Lenin's statement on the same question and nearly every one of the 21 conditions adopted at the same Second Congress gave to the sections of the Communist International minute instructions on the

building up of party organizations and on the nature of their tasks. The question of organization was also very prominent at the Third Congress of the Communist International. The theses on organization which were elaborated with the help of Lenin, explained very minutely why nuclei and other forms of party organization are necessary, how they should work, etc.

AT the Fourth Congress of the Communist International Lenin pointed out that the theses on organization adopted by the Third Congress had remained on paper, altho all the delegates to the congress had voted for them. In fact, previous to the lesson of the German revolution, none of the decisions on the question of organization had been carried out by any of the foreign sections of the Communist International, except the parties of countries which previous to 1917 had formed part of the Rus-

officials and candidates to elective posts are able to carry thru anything they like at the party meetings which they convene.

THE above-mentioned elements see, and quite rightly, in the organization of nuclei, their co-ordination according to districts in big towns and on a city scale in the smaller towns, the end of the almost unlimited control which they exercised in the party organizations. In Italy, in Turin and in some French towns, after the organization of nuclei in the workshops the leadership of local organizations went entirely into the hands of workers recommended by the nuclei.

Thru the failure of some active workers of the sections of the Communist International to understand the importance of the organization of nuclei in the workshops and of Communist fractions in non-party workers' mass organizations, etc., and thru

IT should also be stated that in Germany and France nuclei publish periodically papers for their or several kindred factories, which have, in addition to political articles, also special columns describing factory life. These newspapers are varied and interesting. In Italy the party organizations publish instead of factory newspapers small leaflets on various subjects, which are distributed among the workers. In Germany, France, Italy and Norway workers' correspondents from factories and workshops have begun to function and have already achieved a certain amount of success.

ALL this is most decidedly the right way to the transformation of our brother sections of the Communist International into mass parties supported by large sections of the urban and rural proletariat.

New life has been put into the party organizations of the above-men-

The International Marionettes



The British imperialists have organized an anti-Soviet Russia and anti-Turkish bloc of the little Balkan puppets. Baldwin is seen pulling the strings while MacDonald is grinding the organ. The Russian worker is saying to the Turkish worker: "Sometime we may be able to thank Mr. Baldwin for this comedy."
(From Molodaya Gvardia, Odessa Young Communist Daily.)

sian empire. What is the explanation for this?

Many active comrades think that nuclei which had been readily adopted in Russia, could not be mechanically transported to other countries because conditions in these countries differ from conditions in Russia. And finally there is the force of habit. There are even now Communists who imagine that the destruction of the old form of organization would also mean the destruction of the Communist Party. They see in the organization of nuclei the destruction of local party organizations.

THERE is also another element which resists, and quite consciously, the reorganization of the party on the factory and workshops nuclei basis. This element is not very numerous but it is the worst element in the party—party officials and a few members of the party who have become members of parliament, of municipal councils, trade union and co-operative administrations, etc.

Under the existing old forms of organization party members are not active. They only meet when they are summoned to meetings before elections or campaigns connected with elections. Party members do not discuss and make decisions on all party questions, they very seldom meet among themselves and therefore the above-mentioned party

the obstacles which were put in the way of the proposed reorganization by certain obstructive elements of the party, the favorable moment of the labor movement boom in 1919-21 was missed, a time when it would have been very easy to form and consolidate nuclei in the workshops.

Now the organization of nuclei is much more difficult.

IN Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, and America, Communists constitute a big percentage of the unemployed, which renders the organization of nuclei still more difficult. There is wholesale unemployment; there is unprecedented terror on the part of employers. Not only Communists are dismissed but also all those who sympathize with them if this fact can be established. Employers are helped in the matter of spotting Communists by members of social-democratic parties and by opportunist trade union officials.

And yet in spite of all the difficulties, this year has witnessed the practical reorganization of the party on the basis of factory nuclei in the big industrial centers of Germany, France, Italy and of some parts of Czechoslovakia and of Great Britain.

An animated discussion on the organization of nuclei in enterprises has also been initiated in America.

In many countries the Young Communist Leagues have acted as the forerunner in this matter.

tioned countries. They have become imbued with the revolutionary energy of the factory workers. The recent demonstrations of the Paris workers, with whom the Paris party organization has come into direct contact thru the factory and workshop nuclei, have shown how much the latter were needed and how important they are for the proletarian and revolutionary Communist Party.

WE have chosen the right path. The experience of the Communist nuclei in the west has absolutely proved that these are not something peculiarly Russian, not adaptable to European and American conditions. They have stood the test also under western conditions.

It is necessary to overcome the difficulties and to organize nuclei in all the factories, works, offices, shops, barracks, estates, etc., etc.—in fact wherever there are wage workers, whether they be men, women, young workers, mobilized soldiers, sailors, etc.

Nuclei should be co-ordinated into wards and districts, the latter on a town or gubernia scale, and these in their turn on a national scale.

IF something has been done in connection with the organization of party nuclei in factories and workshops and in connection with the creation of the correct forms of local party organizations in the industrial centers of some countries, very little
(Continued on page 8)

Letters From Soviet Russia

How We Live.

DEAR COMRADES: I do not know whether our comrades abroad know how we live. Anyhow I think it is worth while to tell them about the life of the young Sivash artillerists.

Sivash is a bay, a very swampy place where Wrangel had one of his main strongholds. Our division drove Wrangel out by attacking him from the rear and thus settled his fate. Hence our division is called the Sivash division.

As to our life, I will not waste words over our every-day routine, but will deal with the main features of our life.

DISCIPLINE is very strict, but it is secured by continually and at every opportune moment explaining to the Red Army men their rights as well as their obligations, their role as the defenders of the Soviet Union. For this purpose we have, in addition to military training, political education classes two hours daily.

During these classes Red Army men study the Soviet constitution, the history of the Soviet power and the history of the Red Army and the civil war.

The Red Army men are also taught geography, reading and writing, arithmetic and agriculture. In our artillery regiment we have no illiterates, but there are illiterate people in the infantry regiments.

They are formed into separate groups or squads and are taught to read and write being set free from drill and other work.

AS more than half of our regiment consists of Ukrainians they are drafted into separate groups in which they are taught in their own Ukrainian language. I suppose you have nothing of the kind in your country.

Military subjects are taught only in the Russian language, groups varying from 5 to 9 Red Army men. Red Army men are placed into groups according to their standard of development. The group system is the best for military training.

Definite hours are given to general physical training and to the study of sanitation and physics.

ON the whole six hours a day are given to study and the rest of the time, if Red Army men are not among the masses they have at their own disposal and may spend it just as they like if they inform their immediate chief.

For their recreation there is a club with a number of circles, a school for political education, a dramatic circle, a circle for general education, etc. The club has a library and reading room, it publishes a wall newspaper which does not even spare the commander of the regiment if he has been at fault in any way. There is also a military correspondence circle in which all Red Army men who contribute to the paper belong. In this circle they learn how to write for the newspapers, etc. Once a week there is a dramatic performance in the club, and we also have "youth" socials, "military" socials, etc. The club works for the whole regiment. We must admit that the club of our regiment is not as efficient as the clubs of other regiments.

In addition to all this we have a Lenin "corner" with various sections in every battalion of the regiment. In these "corners" there are small libraries and about 8 different newspapers. Readings and informal talks take place in these "corners," as well as party, Young Communist and general Red Army meetings. Similar meetings are held once a month for the whole regiment.

Very frequently (every week) we are taken to the cinema. We also visit the workers in the factory which is our patron (I will deal with patronage in my next letter). We also visit museums and aquariums (there is a very good one in Nikolaev). This is just the general outline of our army life. Altho we are taken away from our homes we do not feel isolated.

THE Red Army which is a proletarian army is a school, and

young peasants are right when they say:

"We must study otherwise we will come back to our villages just as we left them, and what would be the use of that?"

And we get a military training and education and become more efficient as we go on. Thus your bourgeoisie will never be able to take us and our Union unawares.

There is still much to write about—our economic situation, our shortcomings, the link between the workers and peasants, etc. But I will leave all this for my next letter, that is to say if you are interested in it and if I receive a reply from you.

TODAY I want to describe just one more fact. Not so long ago we had in the regiment the trial of the commander of the platoon. He was charged with having compelled a Red Army man to run about 15 minutes wearing an anti-gas mask as a punishment for some misdemeanor. The revolutionary military tribunal sentenced him for exceeding his powers to 12 months' solitary confinement. Does it happen in your army that commanders are tried in this fashion?

G. Koten, Red Army man of the 15th Artillery regiment. Nikolaev, Ukrainian, S. S. R., Jan 20, 1925.

DEAR Comrades:—I want to tell you how a working class party member spends his time.

24 hours is a very short time for a worker, for most of us spend 16 hours or more in the factory. Apart from the regular 8 hour day a great deal of time has to be given to social work, and those who are illiterate or semi-literate have to give a considerable amount of time to their elementary and political education. We have a time-table for the whole week. On Monday there is a circle of political training and a Marxist circle for those who are more advanced. In the latter we are now studying "Capital," political economy, the international situation, the situation at home, etc.

ON Wednesday is the Party Day, which is a great favorite with all the workers. The factory party nucleus organizes these party days. The hall is invariably full to overflowing with non-party workers who take an interest in the political life of the country. On the remaining days there are: all sorts of sessions, meetings in the various literary, economic, political industrial and other commissions—of course always in accordance with the capacities and aims pursued.

WE have regularly described in our official press the Pravda and the Robotchaya Gazetta, the work of the nuclei and commissions of the "Dynamo" works, as well as our conditions of life and industrial achievements. The figures which I give below are taken from one of these notices sent to the Pravda. Very significant are the figures showing the results of the campaign in favor of raising the productivity of labor. The results in the casting section of our factory during the ten months from January to October 1924 were as follows:

	Jan. 1924	Oct. 1924
Annual output of casting	29,566 klgms.	100,400 klgms.
Damaged castings.	8 pct.	3 pct.
Fuel used for smelting	42½ pct.	23½ pct.
Cost of production of 1 kilm. of casting	67 copeks	25 copeks.
Total number of workers	138	108
Output per worker	204 klgms.	925 klgms.
Ditto in chervonetz roubles	75 rbls.	325 rbls.
Earnings of the corporation	6,179 rbls.	9,402 rbls.
Average pay per worker	44 r. 75 c.	87 r. 05 c.

This includes skilled workers, semi-skilled workers and apprentices. Thus the pay of a skilled worker is considerably higher.

THESE figures speak for themselves and show what can be done with proper organization, they reflect credit on the works production commission which was appointed by the workers' production conference.

The organization of the production commission and conference is as follows: Every craft (we have 32) appoints a craft production control com-

Red Army Man Writes Home

Editor's Note:—In view of the interest which the workers of western countries take in the life of the Red Army of Soviet Russia, we think that the enclosed information will not be out of place. This interesting document is the copy of a letter written by a young Red Army soldier to his people at home:

I A RED ARMY MAN of the crack 1, squad of the N liaison regiment send greetings to the Peasant Young Communist Leaguers of the Dorsk Nucleus. In this letter I want to tell you, who will soon be in the ranks of the Red Army, about our life and doings in that army. As soon as we arrived at our post we were given our full rations and fitted with cloth uniforms. We are now full-fledged Red Army men and there is no trace of the village lads who arrived here only a short time ago. We rise to order, we drill, we take care of our rifles and must observe strict cleanliness. After a few days we got accustomed to the new life and to the barracks, we get to know each other and the commanding officers. We give two hours a day to our political education and the remaining hours to the study of special military subjects, for that is our speciality. In the evening we read newspapers, attend lectures, go to the club and are frequently taken to town to theater and excursions, and thus time flies. We have heard all soldiers say that there is no comparison between the czarist and the present army. What then has happened? Now we are all equals, the commanding officers are our comrades, in the ranks we treat them as our commanders, but when off duty as our comrades. We ourselves deal with any shortcomings or blemishes when we serve on economic commissions. In the theater we sit side by side with our officers and talk with them as with comrades. Was there anything of this kind in the czarist army? What was the soldier then?

There is of course a big difference.

mittee of three. This committee sees to it that the code of labor laws is put into practice and that the protection of labor laws are observed. The slogan of the "Dynamo" workers is "mass production in accordance with the program, maximum economy in connection with extra expenditure."

In our works factory workers as well as the clerical staff do their share in the organization of labor, by reducing amount of damaged goods, concentration and the continuity of operations even by means of three shifts. And what is more they watch carefully everything connected with both time and piece-rates, etc., which are periodically revised and regulated.

THE said craft control committees meet periodically in conference to receive reports from engineers, technicians, craft foremen, etc., about the work accomplished. The decisions made in connection with these reports are generally business-like

And now, comrades, I am coming to our Red Army request, which is as follows:

There are many young people in our village. Instead of strolling about the villages in the evening a village reading room should be opened where the villagers can read and learn and organize various study circles. Comrades should be drawn into the Young Communist League. We have as yet much to learn; how to organize our farms and our new life. If we do all this we will be richer and wiser and no one will be able to beat us. Study and develop your homesteads, just as we stick to our post and will not allow the enemies of our country to rob us of the fruits of our labor.—Ivan Kozlov, Red Army man.

Chicago, Notice!

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Proletarian Literature in Soviet Russia

By G. LELEVITCH.

THE First All-Russian Conference of Proletarian Writers was held in Moscow, January 6-12. This conference which was attended by over 250 delegates from all parts of the U. S. S. R. was a highly interesting literary and social event.

Only after the seizure of state power is it possible for the proletariat to turn its attention to cultural construction in the true sense of these words and to create its own well-developed belles lettres. However, some elements of its classical culture the proletariat creates a long time before it has become the ruling class. "The world labor movement," wrote Lenin as far back as 1913, "creates and continually develops the international culture of the proletariat."

THE proletariat of the Soviet Republics is confronted with the gigantic problem of "cultural revolution," which was so vividly outlined by Lenin. The liquidation of illiteracy, the enormous development of the social-political and general-culture consciousness of very large sections of the population, the radical revolution in the technique of production, the introduction of the co-operative system among small producers. The re-organization of social conditions and the emancipation of women, the ceaseless struggle with bourgeois and petty-bourgeois ideology, partly revived by the introduction of the N. E. P., the complete re-education not only of the consciousness but of the sentiments of the working classes—such are the monstrously difficult tasks which must be solved if the U. S. S. R. is to become a Communist country. The role of belles lettres, which exercises an enormous influence on the subconscious life of people, has gained in importance under these conditions.

AS the influence of literature made itself more and more felt, the literary creativeness of the working class received an impetus. Old proletarian writers made new and very valuable contributions, for instance, the novel of Seragomvitch, "The Iron Hood." New talent made its appearance: the poet Bozymensky, who from being the best poet of the Young Communist League, rapidly developed into a true poet of Bolshevism; the young proletarian songster of the countryside, Ivan Doronin, the talented proletarian belles lettres writes: Fedor Glatkov, Yuri Libidensky and many others became justly prominent in modern literature. A considerable number of new proletarian literary groups came into being: "The Young Guard," "The Spring of Labor," "Construction," and last but not least the leading group, "October."

A MASS literary movement of unheard of dimensions came into being at the same time. The workers correspondents' movement became not only a powerful source of journalistic proletarian forces, but also a powerful reservoir from which proletarian belles lettres derives its forces. The masses have a great desire for artistic creativeness, and the district factory and workshop club, Red army young Communist worker correspondents' literary-artistic circles have given shape and form to this desire. The astonishingly rapid development of these proletarian literary and artistic elements must be credited. It is not unusual for a workers' correspondent, whose only achievements hitherto were a few second-rate poems, contributed to the factory newspaper, to become in a very short space of time a contributor to a big gubernia newspaper, and soon after a contributor to the weekly periodical, progressing gradually until we meet his name in about six months' time in the columns of "fat" journals, and in twelve months time we see him already established as a well-known poet occupying a prominent place in literature.

IT is not only in Great Russia that this mass literary movement is taking place; all the nationalities of the U. S. S. R. have produced their proletarian writers, and this does not only apply to such republics as the

Ukraine, White Russia or Georgia, which had long ago a culture of their own, but even to such countries and nationalities as Yukutia, Kirghisia, and the Chuvash region which are only beginning to develop a culture of their own.

The All-Russian Conference which has just taken place has brought to a conclusion a period of stormy creative searching and of rallying all the proletarian literary forces, and it has inaugurated a new and glorious period of creative development and of harmonious construction.

THE conference has pointed the way to creative literary work in the near future. While during the period of civil war, proletarian literature was justified in dealing with reality in an abstract and symbolic manner and even to indulge in trite hymns of praise, a more artistic manner of dealing with concrete revolutionary reality is needed now. The proletarian Tyrtaeus must give way to the proletarian Homer. This change in the subject of literary productions must naturally bring with it a change in their outward form—pathetic lyric poetry is supplanted by epic and drama, artistic prose pushes poetry into the background.

IN this new proletarian literary movement emphasis is laid on the subject matter for which a suitable artistic form must be found. But this form cannot simply originate in the fertile brain of some theorists.

It will make its appearance only when proletarian writers will have mastered all the old forms and will have transformed these forms by the new subject matter provided by them. Such is the viewpoint of the proletarian literature of the Soviet Union in its creative work. This does not of course mean that hymns of praise and pathetic lyrical poetry are to be done away with altogether. Nothing of the kind.

It only means that the main creative efforts of the proletarian writers tend the other way. All these ideas are formulated in the ideological and artistic program adopted unanimously at the conference.

BUT the conference has also done splendid work with respect to the co-ordination of proletarian literature. Until recently proletarian literature was divided into a large number of small groups and circles which all worked independently and without the least connection with each other.

Some of these circles got so accustomed to their exclusiveness that they declared this an ideal state of things and advocated its perpetuation and development. A feature of this tendency was the notion held by some people that a proletarian writer can only be someone "who has shown himself to be a master of the written word," and that working class poets who are only beginners and workers' correspondents cannot be considered full-fledged members of proletarian literary organizations.

THE majority of the groups and circles of proletarian writers fought against this unhealthy separatist tendency and propagated the principle of an all-embracing and strongly welded together proletarian literary organization, admitting into its ranks not only writers who have already made a name for themselves, but also working class poets who have as yet to make a name for themselves.

There were violent disputes on this question which even led to a split in the proletarian literary movement.

THE conference put an end to this split and to these disputes. The conference was attended by all the amalgamations and groups of the proletarian writers of the Soviet Union, and proletarian literature was given a definite form at this conference as the All-Russian Association of Proletarian Writers (V. A. P. P.), a strongly welded together mass organization. The various groups and circles affiliated to this association form its component parts.

The most difficult and complicated task before the conference was the solution of the organizational question with respect to the national republics of the Soviet Union. But this question

too was satisfactorily and unanimously solved at the conference. Republican associations of proletarian writers are to be formed in all the national republics. In these associations native proletarian writers are of course to play the most important role. These republican associations form part of the All-Russian Association.

A PART from the questions of creative work and organization the conference gave very serious consideration to the question of the literary policy of the Russian Communist Party. During the last two years, proletarian literature had a hard fight in connection with this question with the section of the party headed by L. D. Trotsky. This peculiar "literary Trotskyism," declared that the fundamental literary force in the Soviet Union are not by any means proletarian writers, but so-called "fellow travelers," that is to say, petty-bourgeois writers more or less in sympathy with the Soviet power.

ACCORDING to Trotsky there is not and cannot be any proletarian literature, as the proletariat has now something else to do besides thinking about literature. And by the time the proletariat is set free for such activity it will have merged into a Communist society which knows no classes.

The supporters of proletarian literature told the Trotskyites that the non-existence of proletarian literature is impossible, as the working class stands in need now of this powerful weapon for the purpose of reacting on the psychology of the masses. They also pointed out that proletarian literature must not only be, but is already in existence and that Trotsky and his followers must be deliberately blind not to see it.

THIS does not on any account mean that the supporters of proletarian literature are against any contact with the "fellow travelers," and against making use of them generally. On the contrary, they asserted that there must be collaboration between proletarian writers and truly revolutionary representatives of these "fellow travelers," that the latter must be approached and educated in order to make them gradually adopt the viewpoint of the working class. But to accomplish this task one must have the support of proletarian literature.

THE conference listened attentively to the representatives of both these viewpoints. The literary Trotskyites did not secure a single vote. The fact must not be overlooked that one of the most gifted of the "fellow travelers," Vladimir Mayakovsky, fully endorsed the viewpoint of the proletarian literature and expressed himself emphatically against literary Trotskyism.

If already in May the 13th Congress of the Russian Communist Party favored the proletarian literature orientation, there is no doubt whatever that the conference which has shown the strength and unity of proletarian literature will contribute considerably to the realization of this decision of the party congress.

AT the conference proletarian literature was reviewed. It showed that this literature is already past the stage of infancy, it is past the period when the voice breaks, it has left behind it the period of vacillation, unsteadiness and disunity. In serried ranks it enters the next stage of increased creative production. The tasks are difficult, but our strength is unlimited.



BUILDERS AT WORK

SUB CAMPAIGN GATHERING SPEED

Bundles of Sample Copies Going Out

EACH day there is more evidence that the Second Annual Sub Campaign for 15,000 new subscribers by June 15 is going to hit its mark and very likely shoot past it.

Our offer of free copies of the DAILY WORKER for one week to locals is eagerly being taken up and one branch even wired in so they could begin a real membership drive in this manner. If your branch has not adopted this plan, be sure to bring it up at your next meeting.

From Detroit, Milwaukee and other cities we are receiving the assurance of local comrades that they are making the drive and that we will soon hear from them "with a bang," as one comrade puts it.

From New Orleans where a lone Communist and real BUILDER—J. C. Das—is doing his share, we receive two subs to begin with. This loyal builder assures us it is only a beginning for him and that he will "stick until June 15."

Others are doing the same. Our list of sub-getters will soon be reaching army size and here are a few whose NEW subs we listed today:

CHICAGO, ILL.—D. E. Earley, Thurber Lewis (3), John Heinrichson.

KANSAS CITY, KAN.—M. O. Sullivan.

BUFFALO, N. Y.—Chas. Dirba.

REVERE, MASS.—Chas. Schwartz.

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Where is your name and where is your local? Get into this campaign at once with a NEW SUB that you got out of your own pocket for another worker or that you got out of another worker for the pocket binder which is being given away for every \$6.00 worth of subs that you get.

Plague Threatens Famine.
MEXICO CITY, March 20.—The grasshopper plague is alarming, whole districts are being devastated and in both Guatemala and San Salvador there is danger of famine. The grasshopper wave is sweeping northward toward the United States border.

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The Housing Situation in England

By J. Turner

If we need any proof that British capitalism is crumbling, it is quite evident from the fact that it has utterly failed to house its workers. Prior to 1914 the situation was pretty bad but has since been aggravated by the lack of building and the terrible over-crowding that has followed.

Our mining villages and industrial towns are a standing disgrace to our so-called civilization. A report of an enquiry into the state of the coal industry says:

"No one can read the grim story of the squalor, over-crowding, and insanitary conditions in which a great part of our mining population live today, without a sense of shame. Long rows of one-roomed houses, built of the stone of the locality, to which sometimes a larder was afterwards added. There was generally no window or door at the back, the only door being that which led into a cinder-strewn yard—a quagmire in winter. An open gully carried away all the slops of the tenants. At intervals, in the middle of the yard, huts would be erected, divided into privies, ash-pits, and maybe coal-houses, and these might be, but often were not kept in repair. Water could be drawn from a stand-pipe in the yard, one or two for each row of houses."

MOST of the villages consist of houses of one, or at the most two rooms, and in these, very often, large families have to live. The following cases are quite common.

In Consett (county Durham) in a house of two rooms, (the upper one being reached by a ladder thru a hole in the floor of the upper room,) there live a man, wife and 6 children, including two girls of 21 and 23 and a boy of 18.

The average room space for the whole county is 0.77 per person, (1921 census returns), and in the mining and industrial district it is very much less than that.

THE county of Lanark tells a similar story. In the north-east corner lives 1,539,000 people, (about one-third of Scotland's population) and the district is a mass of slag heaps, chimney stacks, blast furnaces, and insanitary houses. There are 321,471 houses in the country, 61,200 single-roomed, 155,285 two-roomed, i. e., two-third of the houses contain at the most two rooms.

The mining villages are clustered round the pit-shafts, and the dust and grime penetrates to every nook and makes the task of the women hopeless.

Their burden is increased by the fact that practically none of the pits have baths attached to them and the miner, returning home from work, covered from head to foot with grime, and often wet to the skin, has to strip and wash in the room that has to serve for living, dining, often sleeping, and sometimes as the only store-house for the coals. The women are incessantly waging war against dirt, working from early morn to late at night, and the position is often aggravated by the fact that two or more miners live in the same house, and are employed on different shifts, and this means double work for the women.

ONE of the great evils of most of the mining villages and also many of the agricultural district is that the houses are owned by the employers, and so the tenant is compelled to leave the house when his work for that employer is finished, whether he has been stopped or left of his own accord.

In the early days of capitalism, when labor was needed for the machines, small houses were rapidly thrown up without any thought of sanitation or health. Many of these are still standing today and although condemned years ago, are still occupied.

Birmingham, a center of the iron and steel trades, is typical of our industrial towns. To cite but two cases from this city are quite sufficient.

1. Father, mother and 4 children

all sleep in one bed and live and sleep in one room.

2. Father, mother and 9 others of the family, (aged 3 months to 5½ years) have one living room, bedroom and an attic.

These houses often have no water supply or sanitary convenience.

FOR the privilege of existing in these hovels, the workers pay, not only exorbitant rents, but often with health, and life, as the following shows:

The city falls easily into three divisions, the central wards, which are mainly slums, the inner circle of unhealthy wards, and the outer circle, where the richer classes live.

	Central Pct.	Middle Pct.	Outer Pct.
Back-to-back houses	51-57	27-47	0.1-8
Total death rate, 1914-18 (per 1,000 population).....	19.3-21.8	13-17.8	9.4-10.9
Infant mortality: Death rate (per 1,000 births).....	134-171	94-126	60-78
Measles (death rate per 1,000 population).....	0.56-0.72	0.39-0.46	0.0-0.12
Bronchitis and pneumonia (death rate).....	3.63-2.68	2.32-3.12	1.19-1.62
Phthisis	1.63-2.63	1.17-1.42	0.67-0.89
Infant summer diarrhoea.....	29-57	19-26	3-9

Rents Legislation

AT the beginning of the war, the housing situation began to grow more acute. Thousands of workers flocked into the industrial centers, until it was almost impossible to get a room. The authorities erected wooden

the key of a small cottage.

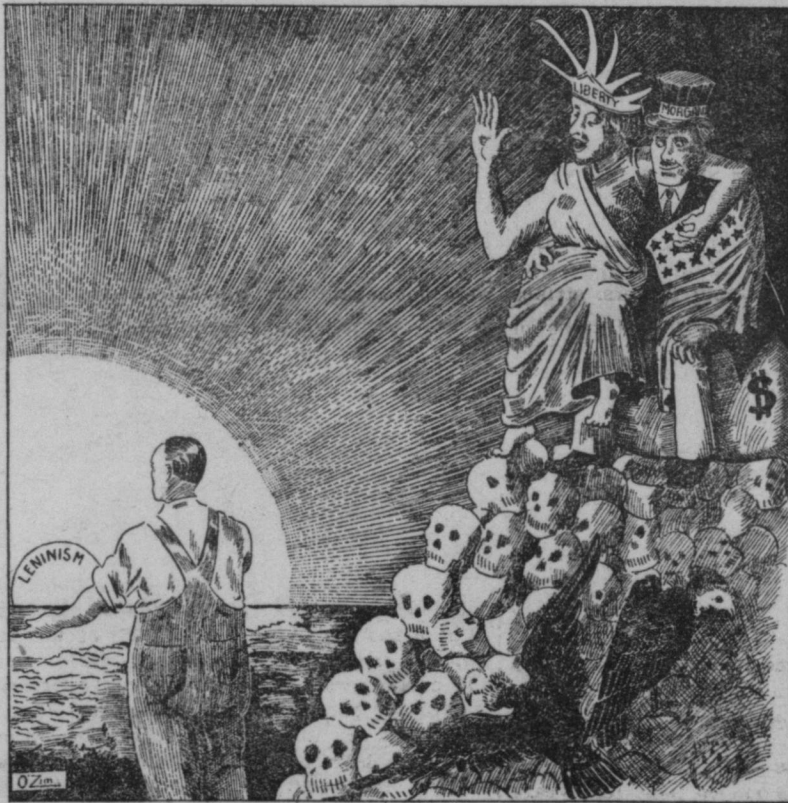
WITH the fixed rental, the return on property was small compared to those of industry, and much of the property found its way on to the market. Many of the workers bought their own houses, only to find that they had paid a fictitious price for them.

Building and Legislation

It became quite apparent, after the conclusion of the war, that there was no hope of private enterprise supplying the necessary houses, and the government took action by passing the housing of the people act (1919),

making it compulsory for the local authorities to supply the shortage. 45,000 houses were built as a result, but on the grounds of economy, the subsidy was curtailed and operations almost ceased. The loss on the build-

Turning on the Light



huts as a temporary expedient, but these were not sufficient to relieve the position. Rents soon soared but as a result of organized opposition on the part of the workers, the rent restrictions act (1915) was passed, forbidding the increase of rents.

The first legislation, however, was to prevent eviction, for the dislocation of industry, that followed the outbreak of war had caused much unemployment, and to protect the workers the courts (emergency) powers act forbade evictions for non-payment of rent without the permission of the courts.

THE rent restrictions act (1915) applied to houses of not more than £35 annual rental, i. e., working class houses. No provision was made for furnished houses, with the result that many were let, containing a few inferior articles of furniture, and the landlord had complete control. This act remained until six months after the war, when it was replaced by a further act allowing 10 pct. increase in rent and covering houses up to £70. This was amended in 1920 by a bill to last three years and provided for an increase of 40 per cent and also included a clause making profiteering in furnished rooms illegal.

The position had now become so keen that "key money" was often paid for the possession of houses, sometimes as much as £20 being paid for

ing, which was being borne by the state, was estimated at £10,000,000 for the year, the cost of the houses being £1,100 each.

Where did the Money go!

THIS was the natural question which arose out of the situation. The press said, "To the building workers." This was untrue. The material were under the control of rings who took advantage of the position to force prices up to the highest possible limit. The following tables are a comparison:

	1914	1918	Increase Pct.	1920	Increase Pct.
Bricklayers (per hour).....	10 1-2d.	1-6d.	71	2-4d.	165
Laborers (per hour).....	6 1-2d.	1-2d.	115	2-1d.	176
Cost of living.....	100 pct.		125		176
Bricks (per 1,000).....	29.0	58.2		81.6	184
Iron pipes (per ton).....	£7	£14.1		£23 4-6	232
Slates			64.7		222.2
Iron Bars (per ton).....	£9			£32	246
Nails, 233 pct., timber 300 pct., baths, stoves, etc., 291 pct.					

OTHER material had risen in a similar manner, and it is clear that the scheme failed because the rings exploited the situation. The result was that the rents of the houses were so high that the workers could not afford to pay them, and most of them were compelled to take in lodgers and thus bring the authorities up against the question of over-crowding

in a new light.

Direct Labor

The class struggle reflected itself keenly in the administration of the act, and on most of the local councils a keen struggle waged for the use of direct labor in the building of the house, and thereby effect an economy that enable them to let at a cheaper rent. In the cases where this was carried out, the houses were let at a rent of 10 to 16 shillings per week, while those built by private contractors were often from 15s to £1-1 per week. The saving thus effected was good.

IN Bradford, the cost per house was £259 against the contract price of £1,004. In Tonbridge, the cost per house was £876 against the contract price of £1,070. In Newmarket, the cost per house was £761 against the contract price of £1,172.

The rings, however, did their best to cripple the position, and many of the councils found their building material held up. The Bradford council tried to solve the problem by purchasing a brickworks for the making of their own bricks. These were used by the direct labor that they employed and the surplus was sold to the contractors who were building for them.

The rings, however, were not at all in sympathy with the idea, and compelled the contractors, under threat of boycott, to refrain from using the bricks. And at one time, the position was such, that while the brickyard was stocking its surplus bricks, a contractor, who was building in the next field was waiting for bricks, which, when he received them, had to be carted two miles. Thru the reactionary element on the council and the action of the rings, the brickworks had to be sold, having proved a failure to solve the problem. In this way private enterprise exploited the position at every opportunity, and held up the supply of houses.

THE excuse that they made for the lack of building was that there was not sufficient labor to carry out the work, but the labor available had never been absorbed by the industry.

The ministry of labor figures show that in December 1924 there were 86,025 building trade workers unemployed, and 25,715 of the public works and contracting workers, while in August when the trade should be at its best, the figures were 78,068 and 22,825 respectively.

Labor Government and Housing

With the advent of a labor government the workers looked for some relief. Mr. Wheatley introduced his housing bill granting a subsidy of £6 per year covering a period of 20 years, providing that the houses were let at a rent of about 10s. per week. Conferences were called, both of the workers and the masters, and each gave their word that they would do all they could to make the scheme a success. The workers agreed to admit others into the trade after an intensive training, and the masters promised not to force up the price of the materials. In spite of this, the price of bricks increased almost the next day, and other materials soon followed suit. The threats of the government were of no avail, but they took no action. They were too busy

enslaving the German workers, to think of the workers at home, and having accomplished their task, were thrown out of office before any material improvement had taken place.

Tory Government and Steel Houses

A TORY government followed, and Lord Weir, who is interested in the Clyde shipyards, found a method

(Continued on page 5.)

The Housing Situation in England

(Continued from page 4)

of building houses of steel plates. The government immediately gave its support to this method in spite of the fact that the cost exceeded that of the brick house. Some criticism was given of this type, and it was stated on good authority that these houses would prove to be extremely hot in summer and cold in winter, also verminous and damp.

The minister of health, however, was not to be put off so easily, and in replying said, "What if these allegations are true? Are slum houses free from vermin? Are they rain or damp proof? Are they always cool in summer and warm in winter?" Evidently the tory government thinks that the slum standard is good enough for the workers.

A dispute arose over the rates of pay of the men who were building them. The men employed in the erection were engineers, who received about £1 per week less than the building workers, and the Builders' Union claimed that these men should be paid the standard rate of the industry. Lord Weir refused to discuss the question, on the grounds that these men were members of the Engineers' Union, and received the agreed rates of that union.

THE rings once more took advantage of the situation, and the Light Castings Federation, the only one that need fear no competition, once more put up the price of their goods.

The Fight Against Evictions

After the end of the war, evictions became prevalent. The control had to some extent been relieved and it was now easier for the owner to obtain possession of his house. Many of the owners were desirous of getting rid and in order to get a better price for the house, first get rid of the tenant. The unemployed, unable to pay their rent out of the miserable pittance they received, were the greatest sufferers.

THEY were however, well organized, and were not prepared to take the matter lying down. They rallied their forces to the scenes of

the evictions, and by force of numbers, either prevented the eviction of the tenant, or replaced the furniture after the officials had left. They interview local authorities, and were often successful in getting the notices cancelled. But while many of their members were houseless, there were in many localities, houses standing empty, and they took the law into their own hands, and very often seized the houses and put their members into them, while the landlord, rather than go to the expense of the law to move them, often let them stay.

Another tactic used successfully by the unemployed was to change over the tenants against whom the notices were served, so that when the officials came to carry out the eviction, the person against whom it was out did not live in the house, and so it was necessary to go over the whole of the proceedings afresh.

The workers have often come up against the police in these fights, and many have been severely injured and imprisoned for the part that they have taken in the struggle.

Rent Strikes.

THE revolt also found expression in rent strikes which took place in various parts of the country. A Tenants' Defense League had been established, to defend tenants, in the courts against evictions, and illegal increases of rents. The league was controlled by the social democratic element and was most careful to keep well within the law. In Manchester, a rent strike took place. Two streets were involved. The landlords had not given the necessary "notice to quit," and the tenants, relying on the support of the league, had a clear case. The league refused to give its support as they said it was unfair that advantage should be taken of a small error to deprive the landlord of his rights, and so the strike fell thru. In London and other centers, strikes took place, with varying degrees of success, but nowhere in the country was the fight so persistently and tenaciously carried on as in the Clydebank area in Scotland.

CLYDEBANK is a town of about 50,000 inhabitants, the main part of whom are engaged in the Engineering works of Beardmore and Singer.

The houses are owned by these firms and in 1914 they tried to force up the rents. The women of the district revolted and refused to pay the increase. The workers then organized for the fight in the Clydebank Housing Association.

Enthusiasm was strong, and in the windows cards were displayed bearing such slogans as "No Increase in Rent," "No Evictions," etc.

The landlords tried to force the increase from them by issuing notices of eviction, but they were not so easily beaten. Sentries were posted at the street corner to watch for the coming of the officials, and cycling scouts were in readiness, so that in a very short time, the workers could be rallied to prevent it.

The landlords then tried the tactic of suing their tenants in court for debt. On the day of the trial, when the courts opened, hundreds of dungaree clad men, straight from the workshop, crowded into the court, packing it to the doors. The whole of the workers of the district had rallied to the call.

THE authorities were aghast. Something must be done, so they got in communication with London. Something was done, the rent restrictions act was passed. A victory for working class solidarity.

With the termination of the act, the landlords demanded an increase of 60 per cent, although legally they only could claim 33 1-3 per cent. This the workers refused to pay and in August, 1920, the whole of Scotland declared a one day's strike in protest.

A legal flaw was found in the notices that had been served on them. The landlord and not his agent should have signed the notice, and they fought them on the grounds that they were not legal. The well-known case of Kerr vs. Bride was taken into the courts and fought on these grounds. The decision was given in favor of the tenant, and although it was carried to the county sheriff, the court

of appeal, and in October, 1920, to the house of lords, the tenant still had the victory.

IN 1923, the government passed a bill allowing the tenant to keep the unpaid increases, but made no allowance for the return of those that the landlords had received illegally. It also allowed the right of appeal to the court of the sheriff for the making good of any "bona fide" errors or omission that may have been made. This was fought on the grounds that the errors made were not "bona fide" and as yet no settlement of the position has been reached and all the increases are still illegal.

The struggle is still raging, and in the meantime the rents that are mounting up as it is necessary for the landlord to refuse the offered rent otherwise that would become the agreed rent and he would have to commence the whole proceedings again. They cannot evict them, for the scouts are still alert.

THE labor council and provost are on the workers' side, altho there are £70,000 owing in rates, while the landlords have so far lost £150,000 and the amount is growing at the rate of £50,000 per month. But the workers are determined to carry on the fight until their demand for the pre-war standard of rent is granted.

The Communist Party.

THRUOUT all the phases of the struggle, the Communist Party has been playing its part, encouraging and supporting the workers in the fight, whether in the constitutional or extra constitutional methods, and putting before the workers its program, such as:

Adequate house room for all badly housed and houseless workers.

Rationing of all housing accommodation.

No evictions of the workers.

No decontrol of rents.

Municipal housing schemes by direct labor.

and at the same time pointed out to them that the only hope for the solution of this and all the other evils from which they were suffering was thru the revolutionary struggle for the workers' republic.

SUN YAT SEN



The death of Sun Yat Sen, leader of the Chinese people's party, Kuomintang, has brought to the attention of the world the mighty role played by him in the Chinese independence movement. He was an uncompromising foe of western imperialism and the Kuomintang party, under his direction, accomplished wonders in uniting the Chinese masses. He was a staunch friend of Soviet Russia and was largely instrumental in bringing about the alliance between the two nations.

High Prices and the Farmer

By IRA SIEBRASSE.

WITH grain prices going up and the time for spring seeding approaching we are reminded that we must make an additional outlay for seed wheat.

While it is customary for farmers to save seed out of their last year's crop, we often sell short in the fall to meet pressing obligations. Then too a number of cases have come to my notice where neighbors have sold all their grain to get rid of weed plants that infest the grain since they do not have the necessary machinery for cleaning and the separation of fowl seed. In nearly every such case the farmer has sold his grain at threshing time, but finds no seed in the market till the following seeding time. These farmers are especially hard hit by such market spurts where they were compelled to sell on a low market and buy back when it is high. The grain gambler has all the advantage over the grain grower.

HIGH wheat prices are lauded as the benefactor of the grain grower. This is only a half truth. A few grain growers may temporarily benefit where they have not sold out tho these are exceptional cases. In time the market manipulation gets the best of every grain grower for it depends chiefly on the cost of production as to whether the grain grower makes any profit whatever, and these market spurts have the bad effect of boosting the price of necessities and thus increasing the cost of production for every individual grain grower while only a few have perhaps received any benefit from the increased price of grain.

THE farmer is wrapt up in a system of production, he is also a con-

sumer of grains for he is a grower and feeder of stock, wheat products, as bran and middlings, considerable of which is used in feeding pigs, calves and dairy cows; a local elevator here is grinding poor grades of wheat into stock feed for the home demand to avoid the high freight rate on shipping in other feeds, the result is that the increased cost of feeding becomes a very unprofitable undertaking. The grain grower is not the benefactor in this transaction usually, for grain and milling companies take their profit, from the grain grower and the feeder who frequently are one and the same farmer.

So whichever way the wheel turns it is not our fortune. The producer is always the loser.

THIS is a time of peril for the grain grower, seed is high priced with the general result, that when seed is high-much seed is usually put in the ground. In the event of a good general crop of wheat it frequently takes several bushel of grain at the time of threshing to pay for one bushel of seed used at the time of seeding, this is especially true of spring grain seeding. So under present conditions if the wheat market drops with the coming of the next harvest the wheat growers will lose heavily. The farmer has learned all this and acts with caution but he is in a position where he is powerless to guard against the inevitable.

FOR the information of those who think the farmer will be financially benefitted from the increased price of grain, let us say that that will be carefully avoided by the capitalists that prey on the farmer. For the farmer does not set the price on anything he sells nor does he name the

price on anything he must buy. Consequently he invariably finds the market down when he sells and up when he must buy. With no stability in prices the farmer has no control whatever over the cost of production.

Often the farmer produces a crop that actually cost him more than he can sell it for. If he fortunately gains a little on one crop, he most assuredly will lose on some other.

AS farmers, our only hope to get more of the product of our labor is to join with the workers in the other industries for workers' control. There may sometimes be reason to question whether some farmer is acting rational but to know the life that he lives and there is no reason to think that he is not a member of the working class.

All power to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

'BEAUTY AND BOLSHIEV' AT THE WICKER PARK THEATER IN CHICAGO

The famous movie "The Beauty and the Bolshevik" which has drawn a gathering of 7,000 people when it was shown in Chicago sometime ago, is coming back to town for one evening only. It will be shown on the Northwest side, at Wicker Park Theater, 1139 Milwaukee Ave., on Wednesday, April 15, from 6:30 to 11 p. m. continually. The proceeds will go to the International Workers' Aid, the Russian Communist daily Novy Mir, and the Polish Communist paper Tribuna Robotnicza.

Social-Democracy Strips Itself Naked

(Continued from last week.)

Heine for the Defense.

SPEAKING of General Wriesberg, Heine made the following observation in his closing speech: "This man, with whom we spoke and negotiated daily, now declares himself unable to state anything about the standpoint of the social democratic party."

On the government councillor Henninger: "We learn about him that he was the actual spiritus rector. And this man wanted to render Mr. Ebert harmless long before: To render the man harmless who was the strongest man for the national defense!"

"We can actually scent the atmosphere of the time preceding the August 4, 1914. Bethman Hollweg declared this August 4 to be unforgettable. And the kaiser said that he knew no more parties. And there were still people who could not comprehend that they had now to shake hands with social democrats.

"And Henninger wanted to get him out of the way, this man who was a model of fidelity to the German people."—(Dec. 21, Rote Fahne).

"A Preposterous Idea."

WITH regard to Noske's visit to Chemnitz, Heine observed: "It is a perfectly preposterous idea to assert that Noske had any intention of causing a strike in Chemnitz, above all a munition strike. . . ."—(Dec. 21, Rote Fahne).

Heine (barrister): "It is of course possible that the incitement and continuation of a workers' strike, especially a munition workers' strike, can in time of war be classified as high treason.

"This is possible. It was also the opinion held by the S. D. party during the war. I am however convinced that the effects of this strike have been exaggerated."—(Dec. 21, Rote Fahne).

Magic Formula of Parity.

REFERRING to the resistance offered by the revolutionary leaders to Ebert's demand for equal representation in the strike committee, Heine declared: "Parity, this magic word, heard with such delight by the workers. By means of this magic word the Reich was saved from Bolshevism on Nov. 10, 1918. With the aid of this magic word the S. D. party was enabled to exercise its political influence, even where, as in Berlin, its organization had broken down. The S. D. party could not command when it was aware that the command would not be obeyed. Had the social democrats at that time issued the command: The strike is a crime, we forbid the strike—they would only have aggravated the strike.

"In such cases it is necessary to employ moral influence with great care, and there was thus no other way but to join the strike committee. The influence to be exercised upon the strike was not to be in the interests of the party, as has been asserted without a shadow of proof, but in the interests of the state and the country."—(Dec. 21, Rote Fahne).

Bulldoze the Masses!

WITH reference to the leaflet distributed with Ebert's agreement, Heine declared:

"In leaflets one is inclined to exaggerate; and Scheidemann did the same thing in his speech of November 9. But what else could he have said to the masses? Whether the people had been victorious on November 9, or somebody else, these were mere rhetoric flourishes."—(Dec. 21, Rote Fahne).

Masses Must Be Deceived!

HEINE (barrister): "Since the social democrats had taken part in

several strike committee meetings, they could not protest against the hand-bill. "It is very easy to say that everyone participating in a harmful business is responsible for it as if things were always so simple and straightforward in politics! An individual standing alone and only having to think of himself can always speak straight forwardly. But he condemns himself thereby to incompetence at dangerous moments. Those who think of the whole cannot accord themselves the right to show their

colors openly."

"The danger was gigantic.

"In order to prevent the revolution being aimed at by Miller and his set, Ebert and his friends joined the strike committee. It is not treason to try and prevent the treason of others."—(Dec. 21, Rote Fahne)

HEINE (barrister): The speech held by Ebert at the Treptow meeting was characterized by Heine as follows:

"The witness, Lenhoff, has told us most effectively how Ebert spoke as party tactician. This is entirely a

part of the total course of action undertaken by Herr Ebert: to keep up communication, to keep a hand in the game, to undertake loyal negotiation for the purpose of ending the strike in the interests of national defense. This was his aim and these were his means."—(Dec. 21, Rote Fahne).

Heine (barrister): "No juridical deduction can discuss away the fact that the S. D. party joined the strike committee for the purpose of putting an end to the strike. The left radicals, who wanted to continue the strike, were equally well aware of this."—(Dec. 20, Vorwarts).

The German 'Socialist' Republic



Saving Germany from "Russian Chaos."

HEINE (barrister):

"The role played by Ebert in January, 1918, precisely as in November, 1918, resulted in saving the fatherland. As compared with the mutinous sailors, the emissary, Liebknecht, and the people rushing about the streets with red flags, men like Ebert, without legitimation (Ebert was the only one who had received a legitimation from the kaiser) played their role 'simply out of genuine old German sense of duty.'

"On November 10, I spoke, on friendly and human terms, with the depressed General v. Wriesberg. At that time he recognized very well what we had accomplished. Many of these old officials held out faithfully and placed themselves at our disposal. It is an injustice that precisely these circles, who helped us at the time to protect ourselves from sinking into the chaos of Russia, should now measure with such narrow judgment the man without whom the whole of our efforts would have been doomed to failure."—(Dec. 21, Rote Fahne).

South Slavic and Finnish Branches Lead in Defense

For the week of March 9th to 15th, the South Slavic and Finnish branches of the Workers Party and Workmen's Circle branches lead in the number of contributions to the Labor Defense Council. Bakers' Union No. 56 of Cleveland donated \$25.00 and Lithuanian Womens' Progressive Alliance No. 63, Nanticoke, Pa. \$30.00.

The Detroit local, Labor Defense Council remitted \$69.45 in addition \$500.00 as part of the proceeds of the bazaar which the federation of working womens' organizations made such a good success.

There follows a full list of organizations contributed during the week:

Bazaar Proceeds, Detroit,	\$500.00
So. Slavic Bureau, Chicago, Ill.	276.41
Labor Defense Council, Detroit	69.45
Finnish Branch, Cleveland, O.	38.80
L. M. P. S. No. 63, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania	30.00
South Slavic Br., Canton, O.	30.00
Bakers' Union No. 56, Cleveland, Ohio	25.00
Bronx English Branch	33.00
South Slavic Branch No. 61, Milwaukee, Wis.	23.70
Finnish Branch, Orange, N. J.	24.00
Coney Island Jewish Br., N. Y.	22.00
C. C. C. W. P., Binghamton, N. Y.	20.00
C. C. C., Toledo, Ohio	15.00
W. C. Branch No. 234, Dallas Texas	11.50
Mothers Progressive League, Bridgeport, Conn.	10.00
C. S. P. S. No. 9 Cleveland, O.	10.00
Finnish Branch, Mohwak, Mich.	9.25
Finnish Br., Frederick, S. D.	6.25
Finnish Branch, Lowell, Mass.	5.00
W. P. Lith.-Br., Berkeley, Cal.	5.00
Finnish Branch, New London, Conn.	6.00
A. S. & C. A., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	6.25
Finnish Branch, Ironwood, L. I. N. Y.	5.00
Workmen's Circle No. 225, New York, N. Y.	5.00
Akron, Ohio, C. C. C. W. P.	4.00
W. C. No. 63, Brooklyn, N. Y.	3.00
W. C. No. 383 Savannah, Ga.	3.00
W. C. No. 315 Brooklyn, N. Y.	1.00
W. C. No. 272 New York City	1.00

Raise Funds!

For the Workers Party Campaign Against Wage Cuts and the 'Open Shop'

THE capitalist class is slashing wages in the textile industry! Wage cuts are in preparation for the coal miners of America! The "open shop" is raising its ugly head, threatening the living conditions of every worker!

We must distribute a million leaflets, "Strike Against Wage Cuts!"

We must organize shop committees!

We must initiate amalgamation of the weak craft unions into powerful industrial unions!

The party must do the work! The party must pay the bills!

Make a collection at once in your branch and send it in to the national office.

Take a list to your shop and union and make collections there!

All together against wage cuts and against the "open shop"!

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WORKERS PARTY OF AMERICA,

1113 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT

Sender:
Address:



INTERNATIONAL NOTES



BELGIUM

BRUSSELS—At an extraordinary congress of Belgian miners recently held here to discuss the wage question, the delegation from the Knights of Labor, the militant miners' organization, affiliated with the R. I. L. U., was refused admission to the session. Four members of the latter organization which was holding a conference at the same time, entered the congress hall with the following communication addressed to the executive committee of the reformist organization:

"We renew our proposal for a joint congress of all miners' organizations with the object of deciding on the means for struggle to be used against the mine bosses' attack on wages.

"The delegation of the Federation of Knights of Labor demands to be allowed to participate in the work of the congress, and the right to speak in defense of the stand taken by the miners organized in the national Federation of the Knights of Labor . . ."

Upon the return of the delegation with the answer of the reformist chiefs, the congress of the Knights of Labor launched an appeal to all Belgian workers, and particularly to the miners, to support the proposals for united resistance that they had adopted; calling attention to the propaganda carried on by the committee of action (Communists and Knights of Labor) for preparing the miners for united resistance against the mine-owners, and attacking the reformists who ignored the proposal for a united front.

But Accept Wage Cuts.

The militant elements having been excluded from the congress by the Miners' Union the chiefs had no difficulty in getting the delegates to accept on behalf of the miners they represented the new 6 per cent wage cut announced by the mine-owners.

It is not long since the bureaucrats of the Miners' Union forced the Belgian miners to accept an 8 per cent wage-cut by sabotaging the great Borinage strike, which lasted for three months, and in which the miners displayed such a bitter fighting spirit and such steady resistance that the governor declared martial law. Indignation against the yellow chiefs reached a great pitch at the time, and now a wide-spread revolt is expected against this latest piece of treachery.

BULGARIA

BELGRADE—The relentless hunting down and persecution of the Communists and the Peasants' Party by the Bulgarian government, and the utter impossibility of carrying on any legal action of any sort whatsoever, has resulted in the flight en masse of workers, peasants and intellectuals to the mountains, from which, organized in "tchetes," they are carrying on unceasing guerilla warfare against the government. These "tchetes" are composed of groups of 30 to 50 men, organized on a military basis, under the leadership of an elected commander. A systematic struggle against the fascists and the government is being carried on by the "tchetes," weakening and disorganizing the government apparatus, and in these fighting groups the masses have a real and effective weapon against their oppressors.

Bands of this sort have been formed in all parts of Bulgaria, and the government has never yet succeeded in capturing any of them. The peasants and workers aid them in every possible way, thus rendering the government's pursuit of them difficult in the extreme. Recently the government adopted a new method in its efforts to capture these revolutionary bands, proclaiming a reward of 200,000 to 300,000 leva for every member of the "tchete" taken. The Bulgarian government has already appropriated 20 million leva for this purpose.

GERMANY.

BERLIN—The central organ of the German Communist Party publishes information revealing the preparations being made by the government against the working class in anticipation of a general strike in all the leading industries. The whole navy is in readiness, the army newly equipped with ammunition, and submarines are patrolling the coast. Agreements in the mining, metal, transport and a number of other industries are just coming to a close, and the sentiment in favor of united action against the merciless exploitation of labor under the Dawes plan in the form of a general strike is gaining tremendous momentum among the rank and file of the German workers. The government is doing its best to jail the Communist leaders and smash up the Communist Party thru the great anti-Communist "Cheka Trial" before the storm breaks, and the press is broadcasting warning against the Bolshevik danger, and throwing out dark hints about yet one more "Zinoviev Letter."

Shop Committee Congress.

The recent congress of shop committees of the Berlin-Brandenburg district demonstrated the extent of Communist influence in this important industrial district, and the readiness of the workers for the fight which is facing them. Of the 355 delegates present, 4 were social-democrats, 4 independent social-democrats, 1 syndicalist, 119 non-party, and 234 Communists.

Comrade Ruth Fischer, Communist reichstag deputy, addressed the congress, recalling the treachery of the social-democratic government and trade union officials, and telling of the paramount importance of trade union unity in the coming intensification of the struggle. In the course of her answer to an interruption on

the part of a delegate opposed to unity, Comrade Fischer quoted a bitter attack by a leading organ of German heavy industry on the present unity tactics of the Communist Party, as fraught with the gravest danger for capitalist interests. Speaking of the new battle facing the workers, Comrade Fischer pointed out that the much-heralded project of the trade union bureaucrats for a referendum in connection with the eight-hour day had vanished into thin air, that they were trying to dupe the masses by going thru the motions of formal resistance, but that this, like their whole opposition to the Luther government was the purest bluff.

Welheim, a worker in the Siemens shops, and deputy to the Prussian landtag, recalled the conditions of revolution under which the shop committees were first brot into being, and showed the role that these councils might play in cases of strike and political crisis.

Disillusionment of Masses.

The session was marked by an incident significant of the disillusionment and disgust with the social-democratic leaders that revelation upon revelation of their treachery and corruption is spreading among their former working class supporters. Among the workers who took the floor was a member of the social-democratic party, who works in one of Berlin's great metal concerns. He declared that many workers now perceived the full treachery of the social-democrats. The Ebert trial had finally opened their eyes. In the huge establishment where he worked there had been no meeting of the shop committees for a year and three months, owing to social-democratic sabotage. In conclusion he said: "We want to work with you: We want to re-establish trade union unity, because this gives the only possibility for the proletariat to get out of its present misery."

Vigorous resolutions were passed advocating trade union unity, amnesty for political prisoners, etc.

AUSTRIA.

AUSTRIA — The Austrian social-democrats have become involved in the same sort of unclean mess as their German and Swedish and Dutch brethren. A scandal is coming to light, the Sklarz scandal, which promises edifying revelations quite up to the standards of the Barmat affair. With the aid of the social-democratic ministers, Sklarz and his accomplices stole about 300 milliard Austrian crowns which they used to further a number of crooked deals. The ministers most deeply involved in the affair are Matasia and Schueff.

The social-democratic press has not breathed a word about the matter, but the Communist Vienna Rote Fahne has been making up for the omission. At the same time that they are protecting these grafters, the social-democratic authorities are using the forces of the state against the Communists. Just lately they raided the secretariat of the Austrian Communist Party, and also seized the Red Soldier, the Communist paper for distribution in the army.

The Communist Party, which has just been re-organized on a firmer basis, recently held a great demonstration against the Ramek cabinet, and against the expulsion of the Polish comrade, Baral, condemned to death in Poland, who has been living in Vienna for the past four years.

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MUSIC - LITERATURE - DRAMA

Concerning Russian Women

By IDA DAILES.

MANY of us have "learned about women" of Russia from Tolstoi, Dostofevski, Gorki, Chekhov, and other great Russian writers of the years preceding the 1917 revolution. To us, generally speaking, the Russian women fall into three broad groups: the neurotic, amorous woman of society as typified by Anna Karenina; the victim of the wife-beating peasant described to us by Gorki; and the interesting prostitute who seemed to be a fascinating subject for most of the Russian writers. There was much of the glamor of romance about these women, not only because of the intrinsically romantic types which were described but also because they were aided by the pens of the masters who presented them.

HOWEVER, I have just finished reading a little pamphlet entitled "Work Among Women," which contains a number of reports on various phases of the work of the Russian Communist Party and the Soviet government among the women of Russia and the Eastern Soviet republics. And it seems to me that there is more romance in the facts, figures, analysis and plans contained in these reports than there is in all the work of all the masters of Russian literature. Here the words are inspired not by literary genius, not by the urge of the artist to express himself, but by the simple necessity of stating what has been done, what the conditions are and what must be done. And it is truly remarkable to learn what has been done under the terrible heritage that was left to the Russian working class, and especially the working women of Russia, by czarist oppression, war, revolution, blockade and famine.

LET me quote from the introductory explanatory note:

"In the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, Communist women concentrate all their talents and energies on constructive work, on the social reconstruction of their respective countries. The missed opportunities of many centuries are to be made good over night.

"The reports of our women comrades are nothing but records of hard, practical and fruitful work. This work may seem to many humdrum, even 'reformist.' But those whose souls and minds are open to the great symphony of the class conscious march towards Communism, will be able to detect revolutionary chords even in this everyday work. They will realize that these reports are a record of untiring, self-sacrificing and skillful work and a reflex of the creative forces within the women's movement. All this characterizes not only the leading women comrades, but also the millions of women among whom they work." The reports contained in the pam-

phlet cover the following:

The Russian Communist Party at work among women. Methods of approaching working women. Women's delegate meetings. Mass methods of work. The press as a means of organizing the proletarian women. Methods of approaching the working women thru the unions. Forms and methods of work among the women of the Soviet East. Protection of mothers and infants. The woman worker and the communal dining rooms.

THERE is also an appendix, outlining a program for working women's study circles, dealing with questions ranging from factory production, technical equipment, etc., to the history of the world revolution and the Communist International.

When I read the report on work among the women of the Soviet East, I thought of the Negro problem in the United States. The contrast between the Soviet method of dealing with the enslaved women of the East and that of the United States in dealing with the enslaved Negroes is very striking. Both groups were freed formally by their governments. But in Soviet Russia formal decrees are not enough. The problem of bringing these women up to the economic and cultural level of the advanced sections of working women is being tackled vigorously and practically. Among other things, eastern women are being drawn into the Communist university and then sent back to the east to carry on theoretical and practical education and reconstruction among their countrywomen.

WHILE the Communist Parties of the western countries have entirely different problems to meet in their work among women, every Communist can read this pamphlet with interest and profit. The women of Russia will have much to contribute to the western proletariat in the way of practical experience when the western countries are faced with the problem of building up the Communist society in their own countries.

"The Processional"

A Cross Section of American Life.
Forty-Ninth Street Theater,
New York.

THE THEATER GUILD have once again jarred the conventional and long-established. Last season we had the "R. U. R." and the "World We Live In." Now we have "The Processional" a jazzy cross section of American life upon which the critics are furiously disagreeing.

The scene is laid in West Virginia with a strike 'n soldiers 'n sheriff 'n a Heart reporter (who is sorry for everybody but can't do a thing about it) 'n a Yiddish business man afflicted with a jazz-mad daughter (not satisfied with the "Victrola" that her pa has bought for her) 'n Psinski, the Polish-born strike leader who welcomes a week with the hero "Dynamite Jim" in a cellar as a golden opportunity to "explain the workers' position in

history." There is our old friend the President of the "Law and Order League" the Sir Galahad of 100 per cent morality who warns the obsequious sheriff against "women who are making propositions to the soldiers" who have been brought in to break the strike. We have the "ku klux klan in solemn konklave assembled sitting in judgment on 'outraged womanhood'" who sentenced the heroine to a good whipping and the tar and feathers for being present when the outrage took place.

"Dynamite Jim" is the desperate identity who is the center of the piece. He lands in prison on the 4th of July because he does not feel like kissing "Old Glory" as he lies with it in the gutter. Having built up a reputation locally as an infernal nuisance the ruling class decided that a hanging bee is as good a way out as possible. They provide the coffin but Jim escapes and in doing so he kills a soldier. With the aid of Psinski he escapes to his mother's home—a leaky barn—all that is left to the family after a hundred years pioneering in the West Virginia hills. The melancholy Psinski nearly talks Jim to death. Eventually Jim is caught "by the seat of the pants" by the soldiers. He is turned over to the 100 per centers and they put out his eyes. He is then thrown into Charleston gaol. He rejoins the strikers who are trying to settle accounts with the ku kluxers Dawn see the latter disappear, for as Psinski says "Nightriders don't work in daylight." Jim loses his companions and in the forest he meets Sadie, the daughter of the Jewish business man. She is now carrying a child of his. The Hearst reporter shows a way out. "The killing of a few people doesn't matter, but an illegitimate child is a serious matter," and proposes marriage.

Jazz plays thru the play, the action is rapid, running the gamut of comedy, pathos and tragedy. Some of the critics hail "The Processional" as a truly great play, an effort to portray the individualism, lawlessness and general irresponsibility of life in industrial America. The playwright, John Lawson, knows his West Virginia and its problems. He minces no words and hurls bricks very hard and very often which are calculated to make the average playgoer quite uncomfortable. The casting has been done with the usual Theater Guild thoroughness, the players interpreting their parts with sincerity and understanding.

"The Processional" started at the Garrick and then went to the Comedy. It is now at the Forty-Ninth Street Theater. It should be upon its merits destined for a long run. It jars the placid and easy-going and is by no means entirely flattering to the radical. It stings and lashes and plays havoc with Babbitry, conservative and radical.

If you are just a big-town person go and see it, you'll view another America, an industrial jungle with its inhabitants. When the sky covering

vegetation of the carboniferous period hid the steamy earth from the sun, it never harbored such denizens, such struggles, such blind efforts towards the light as "The Processional" shows have grown up around the petrified plants and trees which lie in the mountains after aeons of time. See it twice, anyway.—"AUSSIE."

Party Construction in C. I. Sections

(Continued from page 1)

has been done in connection with the formation of Communist fractions in non-party mass organizations of the working class and in connection with placing Communist fractions under the control of the party. And yet the few Communist fractions which exist mainly in parliaments are, because of their short-comings a source of much harm to the Communist parties.

CENTRAL and local committees of a considerable number of Communist parties do not pay sufficient attention to this question. The minute instructions of the E. C. C. I. of February 1924 on the organization of Communist fractions, their work and their relations with party organs compelled on the basis of the experience of the Russian Communist Party and other sections of the Communist International, have hitherto remained on paper, and in the meantime the actions of individual members of the Communist fractions are doing great harm to the Communist parties.

IN many countries Communist members of trade unions, co-operatives and other workers' organizations are not yet co-ordinated into Communist fractions. Hence it is easy for the trade union and co-operative bureaucrats from the social-democratic party to drive the Communists out of the above-mentioned mass organizations.

It is essential to organize nuclei in the workshops and to form Communist fractions. At the same time these nuclei and fractions must be given a proper lead by the party organs.

With a correct organization of the party and with correct and flexible tactics applied thru nuclei and Communist fractions Communist parties will be victorious in the struggle with capitalism.

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