







THE RED MAY DAY CIRCULAR.

Scenes from the Underground Press of Russia—How This Year's May Day Proclamation in Warsaw was Edited, Printed and Distributed—A Lesson to Our Comrades Who Yet Fail to Grasp the Importance and Usefulness of Our Socialist Press.

[St. Louis "Labor" publishes the following, translated from the Russian "Vorwärts," special correspondence from Warsaw, Russian, Poland, dated May 15:]

I. About a dozen people meet in a proletarian home in one of the suburbs of Warsaw to discuss the problem of issuing a circular, which is to be distributed.

Secretly they arrived, one after the other, anxious to escape the police agent's or spy's eye. A dozen times every one of them closely scrutinized the vicinity, making doubly sure that no spy was following to the secret meeting place.

Then the house and its surroundings are thoroughly inspected once more in order to make sure that the police have no knowledge of the secret meeting. How to enter the house unobserved, or without causing suspicion? This is no easy task, for every one of these tenement houses has its porter, who, almost without exception, is a paid spy of the Tsar's police department.

II. Now they are all present. In a whispering tone the discussion is taken up. A loud word spoken and all would be ears—in Russia. A document is read. One man, an "intellectual," is listening with feverish attention. It is he who had been selected to draft the circular, which is a document of the revolution.

But the proceedings are in the same suppressed, serious, whispering, emotional voice of the revolution. Men of toll, wage workers, are members of this revolutionary gathering.

Perhaps some of them have never attended school, cannot read or write. But these men's hearts are filled with the fire of the revolution, ready to sacrifice everything, their life, if necessary, to get out a revolutionary circular that will open the eyes of the toiling brothers and interest them in the great movement for freedom.

It takes time to agree on the contents of the circular. The hearts and minds of all are filled with emotions and ideas which should be the great city. Finally quiet reigns. To adjourn and meet again is dangerous in view of the fact that the police are more vigilant than ever.

Everything is quiet. The little room is almost dark. Only one little oil lamp on the table sends its weak rays of light on a piece of paper and the editor's face. The editor writes. With lightning speed his pen moves over the paper. No one speaks. Now it is ready! He reads! All listen. One man, a giant in stature, who had first discussed most fervently, is now the most attentive listener.

III. This man faced most of the dangers of the revolution. He often stood on the firing line. He spent one year in the "Citadelle," the Bastille of Warsaw. Then they dragged him to far off Siberia. The government could not prove anything wrong against him, but his expression was so suspiciously determined and so full of conviction that the Tsar's police to get him out of the way.

He escaped from Siberia; how he accomplished his escape nobody seems to know. One night, on the road to Siberia, this man, the gendarmes and police, stopped at one of the blockhouse stations. The next morning it was reported that prisoner No. — had escaped. One of the heavy blocks in the wall had been removed by some strong hand. The prisoner had disappeared in the Tajga—the mysterious forests of Siberia!

Many months later a man appeared in Warsaw. He gave his name as Jan, the Polish name for the Russian Ivan or the English John. The man's face told a story of suffering, misery and want. This man soon found an opportunity to meet the comrades of the "Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania." Ever since those days, whenever any dangerous propaganda work had to be done, Jan was at his post and did the work. His name is known to but few people. He works here to-day, somewhere else to-morrow; he is to be found everywhere and nowhere. The police know something of this man. For years the police department has been trying to get hold of him.

Once one of the Tsar's police agents was at Jan's heels—ah! that was reported the next day that the same police agent was found dead; the coroner's jury agreed that he was strangled to death by the hands of some strong individual.

Nothing else was reported. IV. Jan is satisfied. The circular is exactly as he wants it; clear, to the point and full of energetic passages. He extends his hand to the "intellectual," and presses the editor's hand in his vice-like grip. The editor smiles; he knows that Jan cannot be satisfied very easily; since he is pleased with the circular, it must please the rest of the comrades also.

It is agreed that Jan take possession of the manuscript. Like a precious pearl Jan takes the paper, folds it most carefully and hides it in some part of his clothes where the police would not find it in case of arrest, or where, if discovered, he could destroy it before it would fall into the policeman's hands.

Once more he touched his hip-pocket; the old big revolver was in good order, ready to shoot. One more glance at the comrades in the room, a voiceless good-bye—the door opens and Jan disappears in the darkness of the night.

The others remain. After awhile one quietly leaves the place; then another, and another, unnoticed by the Tsar's ever-vigilant spies. The rest of the

PARTY NEWS.

(Continued from page 3.)

might have thought that we were anxious to spend money, but not so. We know how to get the theatre for the best night in the whole campaign—and as it is the favorite meeting place for campaign speeches, we can sell our "option" for good profit. But of course we are not in it for that kind of profit. We paid the deposit that on the night of nights we might hold a Socialist meeting in the best hall in the city. This is one item to prove that we are distinctly alive, and like Israel of old, "we slumber not, neither do we sleep." You would have been pleased, too, to hear the names read, for admission into the local—score of them. The local was "At home" last Sunday evening in its new headquarters—sandwiches, beer for the musicians and dancing for the others, and a fine time for even those who did not dance, was the order of the evening. New members could get acquainted, and added, to a pleasant evening was a neat sum for the treasury. The local has adopted a new working constitution. It contemplates districting the city, and when it gets into effect, Local San Francisco will be thoroughly and systematically organized for the first time. Geo. Williams, Organizer, is a man who does not work for the moment, but for the ultimate good of the party.

Job Hartman recently represented the Socialist Party in Los Angeles in a public debate on Socialism versus Prohibition. "Common Sense" reports his address in full, and comrades will read with pleasure its statement that "Mr. Hartman has so fully recovered from his long and severe illness that he appears again in his old-time power, and his appearance on the platform was the occasion for a storm of applause."

Here and There. The Alabama state convention will be held at Birmingham, June 25. The Washington state convention will be held at Seattle, July 2 and 3. The Nebraska state convention will be held at Omaha, 106 S. Fourteenth street, July 4. Candidates to be nominated are Judge of the Supreme Court and two Regents for the State University.

W. E. O'Neill, 704 S. Fourth street, LaSalle, Wyoming, has been elected State Secretary in place of Louis Marquardt, resigned.

Hagerstown, Md., has reorganized with sixteen members. Martin Hendrickson of Fort Bragg, Cal., Finnish Organizer, reports a successful tour. Within three months he has spoken in the following states: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Minnesota, Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. En route home he will speak at Leadville and other Colorado points.

Local Winita, I. T., with ten members, has been granted a charter by the National Office. J. W. Bennett of the reserve list of national speakers and organizers, has accepted a position as organizer for St. Clair and adjoining counties in Illinois.

North Carolina comrades are very active, and arrangements are being made for a convention to be held at Greensboro to further organize the state. Gladys Vera Lamb, spoke in Brown City, Mich., June 24. The meeting was large and great interest was shown.

"Go Pa." published at 1010 Franklin avenue, Minneapolis, is announced by the National Secretary as trouble-free little animals behind that make life miserable for any peace and cleanliness loving human being.

A few hundred of the circulars were confiscated by the police. But many thousands of them went out all over the country into the factories and shops and workingmen's homes, bearing the threatening concluding lines: "Down with Tsarism! Long live the Revolution!"

FOR SOCIALISM IN THE COLLEGES. Upton Sinclair Explains the Purpose and Plans of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society.

We are very glad to give space to the following letter on a subject which has already been touched upon in our columns: The work of organizing this vote is being pushed by Ralph Kargulizer, who has recently been elected County Secretary. Last week a large attended meeting was held in Westville, a mining center, and our cause work of this society will be the organizing of these college men and women who believe in Socialism, to stop forming propaganda clubs at colleges, to select and distribute literature, to furnish speakers, and to aid in every way in the work of inducing college students to take an interest in Socialism. That this is a most important movement, capable of wide growth and usefulness, is at once admitted. Let us urge that all party men who are or ever have been students at any American college should read their names at once to Miss M. R. Holbrook, Box 1068, New York City. As the society will necessarily be democratically run, if the right officers are not chosen at the outset, and the right kind of Socialism dealt in, the party members who are college men will have their own tardiness to blame.

I send this letter to The Worker because it is my local paper. It is intended for the rest of the party press as well, and I ask that it be reprinted promptly.—Yours for the cause, UPTON SINCLAIR, Princeton, N. J.

It is certainly high time that something were done in this line. While the majority of the students in the colleges and universities are probably children of capitalists, large and small, and while the majority of the children of capitalists are either fanatical or else hopeless devotees of the Senjo Prom and the Sophomore Cotillon, yet there remains a number of real men and women—young and full of energy and capable of great things—who, either by reason of their coming out of the best stock of the proletariat or else by reason of their being the exceptional ones of the bourgeoisie, belong of right to the Socialist movement.

The Socialists of Nashville, Tenn., held their city convention on June 24 and nominated tickets with J. B. Wilson, cabinet maker, as candidate for Mayor; J. T. McMill, electrician, for Board of Public Works; J. W. Young for City Attorney; and J. W. Allen, Geo. Rickenback, Dr. W. H. Jackson, and G. K. Christian for Councilmen.

A Socialist Dramatic Club has been organized in Kansas City, for the purpose of producing Socialist plays. Persons not Socialists having interest in children of capitalists, large and small, and while the majority of the children of capitalists are either fanatical or else hopeless devotees of the Senjo Prom and the Sophomore Cotillon, yet there remains a number of real men and women—young and full of energy and capable of great things—who, either by reason of their coming out of the best stock of the proletariat or else by reason of their being the exceptional ones of the bourgeoisie, belong of right to the Socialist movement.

Local Yonkers has arranged a festival in the woods for Sunday, July 9, at Grace Farm, near of Hollywood Inn.

Ball Grounds, Yonkers. The Williams-bridge and Mt. Vernon cars go direct to the entrance and all Westchester County, Bronx Borough, and New York Socialists are especially invited to take this enjoyable ride and spend a pleasant day with the Yonkers comrades.

State Secretary Chase spoke at Addison on June 22. Comrade Thornton writes: "Despite bad weather, high school exercises, and overtime at the factory, he had a good crowd and much interest was manifested. Some literature was sold and several subscriptions for party papers taken."

Comrade Chase writes that his meetings in the southern part of the state have in general been very successful. On Friday, the day after the Addison meeting, he spoke in Hornellsville and on Saturday he addressed a big crowd in Canisteo. The rainy weather has interfered with his work, but after July 30 he is to be in Orleans and on Saturday over the line at Warren, Pa. He says he finds the people much more inclined to listen to a Socialist speaker and to read our literature than ever before. At Hornellsville the audience staid for nearly an hour after the close of his address while a local business man asked questions and Chase answered them. He frequently meets men who were Socialists already—taught by the logic of events—but did not know before that there was a party in the field representing their ideas.

New York City. At the Executive meeting of June 10, in accordance with the request of Yorkville, the Organizer was instructed to engage an Italian organizer during the campaign. A committee of three, consisting of Comrades Lichtscohn, Obrist and Mayer, was elected to confer with the State Committee in regard to changing the party name. At the City Executive meeting on June 26 it was decided to bring the matter of the West Side Agitation District not being properly organized to the attention of the General Committee.

At the last meeting of the General Committee charges were preferred against Ed. Searing and a special committee, consisting of Comrades Berlin, Alben, Pick, Dabich and Egerton, was elected for his trial. A motion that a standing committee be elected to represent the party, at all public hearings was tabled.

At the open-air meeting of the 14th A. D. last week Comrade Tinsler sold 131 copies of The Worker and took five subscriptions, besides selling a large number of pamphlets. The 6th and 10th A. D. is doing equally well at every public meeting—and so could almost every district in the city if the comrades tried.

An important meeting of the 16th A. D. will take place on Saturday, July 1, at the "clubrooms," 236 E. Fourth street. Every member is urged to be present.

At the last meeting of the 24th A. D., officers were elected as follows: Organizer, Comrade Nicolaus; Recorder, Financial Secretary, Comrade Gerdthausen; Treasurer, Comrade Dietz; Delegates to General Committee, Comrades Nicolaus, Egerton, Bennett and Meyer; delegate to the Clubhouse Conference, Comrade Bieringer; Agitation Committee, Comrades Nicolaus, Egerton, Bohm, Zetzkoff, Dietze, Brey, Ertel and Adam. Election of delegates to the Murray Hill District Agitation Committee and the Volkszeitung Conference was laid over to next meeting. The district has tickets for its annual picnic on August 6, and all members should be present at the next meeting on July 3, at 975 First avenue, to help in the distribution of same.

Districts are notified to make nominations for a member of the State Quorum in place of Comrade Marr, who has resigned. The same must be in the hands of the County Committee by the first meeting in July.

Districts can now receive speakers for one meeting a week. All requests for street meetings should be sent to the Executive Committee which meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month. If possible, three or four dates for meetings should be sent at once in order that they can be published.

Districts owing for tickets must settle at once as money is needed for the campaign. Old literature accounts should be squared up before ordering new lots.

The circular, letters, prepared by Comrade Fraser, of which samples are sent to all districts, will be supplied to districts at the price of 25 cents per hundred copies. Order from the Organizer, C. O. D.

Banners for street meetings will be furnished by the County Committee free of charge.

The borough and county conventions will be held at the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum, Friday evening, July 14. The date was incorporated last week through a typographical error.

The Kings County Committee at its last meeting decided to have the banner-raising on July 21. The Executive Committee was empowered to have 100,000 copies of the platform and such other literature as it deems necessary printed. Seven applicants were admitted to party membership.

Any Brooklyn Socialist who wishes information on the subject of naturalization should apply to the Manager of the Labor Lyceum, 949 Willoughby avenue.

Algernon Lee, Socialist candidate for Mayor, will speak at Atlantic avenue and Nevins street, on Saturday evening, July 8, and at City Hall on July 21.

The 12th A. D. has elected the following officers: Secretary, H. A. Cryger, 374 Twelfth street; Financial Secretary, John Hemme; Treasurer, C. B. Boehme; Organizer, Samuel Pipes; Literature Agent, H. Fines; delegates to the County Committee, Cryger and Hemme. Communications should be addressed to the secretary.

FOR THE DAILY. The Workingmen's Co-operative Publishing Association issues the following appeal to the party members and subdivisions of New York: "The attention of the subdivisions of the Social Democratic Party of Greater New York is directed to their lack of proper interest in behalf of the New York 'Call' for some time past.

National Platform of the Socialist Party.

The Socialist Party in convention assembled, makes its appeal to the American people as the defender and preserver of their liberties and the only political movement standing for the liberation of the individual from the slavery of the capitalist class. It is the only party which has for its purpose the overthrow of the capitalist class and the establishment of a new social order. It is the only party which has for its purpose the overthrow of the capitalist class and the establishment of a new social order. It is the only party which has for its purpose the overthrow of the capitalist class and the establishment of a new social order.

Our American institutions came into the world in the name of freedom. They have been seized upon by the capitalist class as a means of robbing out the life of freedom from among the people. Our state and national legislatures have become the tools of the capitalist class, and have been used by them for their own enrichment and degradation of labor.

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By controlling all the sources of social wealth, by the industrial system, by the ownership of the land, by the ownership of the means of production, the capitalist class has made it impossible for the masses of the people to live in freedom and to enjoy the fruits of their own labor.

Our political institutions are also being seized upon by the capitalist class as a means of robbing out the life of freedom from among the people. Our state and national legislatures have become the tools of the capitalist class, and have been used by them for their own enrichment and degradation of labor.

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