

LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

A Criticism of the Needle Trades Article

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Dear Comrades:

My attention has been called, somewhat belatedly it is true but still in time, to the article in the April 15 issue of The Militant, entitled "Left Wing Victory or Treacherous Bargain."

In due respect to the property and the office equipment of the union, which would have been damaged in the scuffle had the provocateurs succeeded in starting it, I left the hall, calling to the attention of the comrades the actions of the bureaucracy.

Readers will recall that the article in question criticized the point of view of this same Hudson that American seamen are "relatively better off than the other workers", that they have not felt the effects of the crisis and that their wages have not been cut generally.

If anyone were to say that all this "encouragement" of criticism is merely a ruse of the official leadership, the average rank and file will object: that is the correct line of the party and the union—the line laid down by Lenin.

The sincere worker and honest critic has to fight his way. He is almost certain to be unpopular, to be in a minority. Often he finds himself outside of the union and forced to go into another organization.

I protested that I am still a member of the union, and that if I have done anything wrong, I have a right to get an open hearing before the membership.

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—PAUL SCHWALBE.

From a Railroad Worker

Dear Comrade:

I wrote to the railroad worker L— at Kansas City. I also wrote a similar letter to a railroad fireman at Everett, Wash. L— is a locomotive engineer on the Kansas City Terminal Ry., and a member of Division No. 824, B. of L. E.

On Sunday, April 24th, C. R. Hedlund attended a Union meeting of all Twin City Lodges of Locomotive Firemen. This meeting was the culmination of several months efforts on the part of the Left wing locally under Communist guidance.

When I stepped into the Marine Workers Industrial Union hall last Monday morning, as I have done almost daily for the past eight months, I was immediately accosted by half a dozen huskies and ushered into the office for the purpose of identification concerning the author of an article that appeared in The Militant of February 2, which dealt with general conditions on the waterfront.

E. and the B. of L. F. & E. were playing in trying to keep him and other militants from joining the ranks of our organized brothers. I also stressed the vital necessity of amalgamating these small and helpless 21 railroad crafts; on paying labor officials union wages and not a thousand dollars per month when one half of the union membership was out of work of any kind; and for us full-time workers to divide the work with those brothers who have been laid off until such time that we can mobilize a movement to secure a six hour day.

May Day in Minneapolis

(Continued from page 1) thought out. The sections in the various parts of the city and along the line of march up Nicollet Ave. to the Parade Grounds, were adequately and effectively directed.

Literally hundreds of placards and banners of revolutionary significance were carried by the marchers. Communist party banners almost without exception. Communist literature was the only kind on sale, Communist buttons and tags calling for a struggle against imperialist war, were everywhere in evidence.

Merely to say that the Party led the demonstration would be to ignore the real attitude of the party leadership. The party really dominated this May Day, from the first propaganda letter to the last word from the platform on the Parade Grounds.

Now it must be clearly understood by the workers who read this article, that the Communist League and most of its friends, knew beforehand what to expect from the party leadership and were therefore prepared.

—PAUL SCHWALBE.

ORGANIZATION NOTES

From time to time we have in these columns emphasized the activities of individual branches. Naturally in this respect the bigger and better established ones can show a better record, but that is only a quantitative difference.

With but one exception every branch increased its membership during the winter. Three new branches were added. They have so far shown up well. In Cleveland we have as members among others the very early Left Oppositionists such as John Brahtin, Joe Keller, Leo Gleisser and others.

Regular open forums have been conducted during the winter months by the branches of New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis and for a while in Kansas City. The St. Louis branch, despite its small numbers, made particular energetic efforts in this respect.

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

- DRAFT PROGRAM OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL A Criticism of Fundamentals* Part 1 and 3 140 pages, publishers of this book we can THE PERMANENT REVOLUTION (Out of Print in paper cover) cloth bound \$1.00 STRATEGY OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION* Part 2 of the Draft Program 86 pages 25c 158 pages paper cover 50c cloth cover \$1.00 PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE U. S. S. R.* 48 pages paper cover 15c THE SPANISH REVOLUTION* 30 pages paper cover 10c THE SPANISH REVOLUTION IN DANGER* 64 pages paper cover 15c COMMUNISM AND SYNDICALISM* 64 pages paper cover 15c THE TURN IN THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AND THE GERMAN SITUATION* (out of print) 10c WORLD UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE FIVE YEAR PLAN* 48 pag. paper cover 10c (out of print) GERMANY — THE KEY TO THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION* — SHALL FASCISM REALLY BE VICTORIOUS? 48 pages paper cover 10c HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION—Vol. 1 522 pages Retail at \$4 By Special arrangements with the offer it to certificate holders at \$3 THE REAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA 364 pages cloth cover \$1.00 SINCE LENIN DIED by Max Eastman 158 pages paper cover 50c In Preparation PROBLEMS OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION 400 pages cloth cover \$1.50 paper cover 1.00 WHAT NEXT?—VITAL QUESTIONS FOR THE GERMAN PROLETARIAT 200 pages paper cover 50c Bound Volume of all the pamphlets indicated by * Only 100 copies available. Cloth cover \$2.00 SPECIAL RATES IN BUNDLE ORDERS 84 East 10th Street, PIONEER PUBLISHERS New York, N. Y.

polis on May Day. We of the Communist League (Opposition) understand this The League comrades are proud of their part in these achievements.

THE MILITANT

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Pioneer Publishers Notes

The Spanish Revolution which began a year ago is not yet completed. Things are happening in Spain, and the reformists of all description are retarding the forward movement of the proletariat.

Germany To fully understand the events as they are shaping themselves in Germany at present, every militant worker should read "Germany, the Key to the International Situation" a small Ten Cent pamphlet. Trotsky has written a new book on the subject, supplementing this—"What Next?—Vital Questions for the German Proletariat."

Bound Volumes of Pamphlets All the pamphlets marked with a * in our list of publications, printed elsewhere in The Militant, will be bound into one volume and sell for \$2 a copy. We have a limited number of 100 copies. To make sure you get yours, send your order at once, enclosing payment.

Draft Program of the Communist International—A Criticism of Fundamentals, is entirely out of print. We need 25 copies of the paper edition to complete our 100 copies for the bound volume. If you have a copy send it to us and we will reimburse you, or credit you with the price toward the purchase of one of the volumes of pamphlets. "Strategy of the World Revolution is the second part of this criticism."

China "Problems of the Chinese Revolution", a book of 450 pages, will be ready for shipment within two weeks. Paper cover, \$1. Cloth bound, \$1.50. Send your order now as we need funds to rush out the book on Germany immediately after this book.

Certificate Holders Certificate holders are reminded that they are entitled to 33 1/3% discount from their purchases of our publications. The certificates are now ready and will be mailed to all those who paid their full amount of \$10. Those who can afford to buy a certificate now are strongly urged to do so as it will greatly help us to extend our publishing work, to include all the Marxian classics. If you have already purchased one of these certificates, send in your name and address to Pioneer Publishers.

Make Our Press Drive a Success!

We go to press in the middle of the second week of the final month of the press drive. We are therefore temporarily unable to comment on the results of the collections. This we will do next week.

The results of distribution week are full of interest. For example, comrade Milton of the New York branch went out to Union Square with a bundle of three hundred copies of recent back numbers of The Militant.

Because of the free distributions the results fell off a little. We are confident that next week we will more than make up for this slight lull. Our sympathizers are still responding with excellent spirit. A comrade writes from Rockford, Ill., "Although the times are very hard and I have been unemployed for a whole year now, I would not miss one single copy of The Militant."

Table with columns: Quotas, Results. Lists cities like New York, Minneapolis, Chicago, Toronto, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Newark, Kansas City, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Youngstown, New Haven, Montreal, Duluth, Springfield, Ill. with corresponding dollar amounts.

Sixteen subs were reported last week bringing the total for the entire drive up to 203. Eight of these were brought in by the New York branch tightening its hold on first place. Minneapolis will have to step on it if they want to regain their lost honors.

For the remaining weeks of the drive all emphasis must be placed on the financial end of it. Remember that the life of the weekly Militant depends directly upon the success of the drive. No effort must be spared. Money must be raised. Wherever there is a dollar it must be pried loose from its owner.

Form for ordering The Militant and Young Spartacus. Includes fields for Name, Address, City, State, Branch, and subscription details.

