

PROLETARIAN BULLETIN

JANUARY, 1933.

COMRADES:

This is a brief report of the Meeting of the National Executive Committee which took place at Detroit from Saturday morning, Dec 31st to Tuesday afternoon, Jan 3rd.

The first sessions were taken up with reports on condition of the Party and condition of Charles H. Kerr & Company. While it was shown that there has been some growth in Party membership, especially through the starting of new Locals, it was also shown that the financial condition of the Party calls for the utmost efforts on the part of all Locals if we are not to be severely handicapped for lack of the necessary operating expenses.

The experiences of the political Campaign in the state of Michigan were given careful consideration, and, while the vote was negligible (a little over 300 votes being reported for each of our Candidates) the N.E.C. was of the opinion that the Campaign itself was invaluable from the standpoint of practical experience and the propoganda that was carried into new places in the state. Several new locals were organized and contacts made for further expansion. It was our first State Campaign and the lessons learned will make it possible for us to set about the work in future by more direct and practical methods. More advance preparations will have to be made and more Campaign Funds collected.

The reports of Party activities throughout the Country indicate a steady progress and augur well for future expansion. A few of our Locals have practically remained stationary from a numerical standpoint and a few have slipped backward, but on the whole we have advanced. Our gains have been more substantial than our losses.

To meet the shrinkage of income the N.E.C. decided to continue the Campaign and Expansion Fund, as EXPANSION FUND. And, as a means of rendering greater support to the National Office a PENNY-A-DAY FUND was inaugurated. Locals are expected to elect or appoint a member or members to have charge of collecting this Fund and to send receipts to National Office weekly. Seven cents per member, or sympathizer each week, a small enough amount in itself, will be a great help to the National Office income if collected regularly and systematically. Special collection sheets will be gotten out for this Fund.

This Fund, designed to meet present conditions, is not intended as the main means of financing the Party. It is

only a means of helping to meet shrinking income resulting from so many members being on exempt stamps. The income from Dues has fallen considerably. Locals should devise ways and means of contributing more substantially to the EXPANSION FUND. We must have the means of growth.

PROLETARIAN NEWS.

The N.E.C also decided to call upon all Locals to make special efforts in relation to the circulation of Pro News. A subscription plan has been worked out, especially for our unemployed members. Any Comrade who may desire to participate in the new plan will be expected to secure 6 subscriptions at 50cents each. The securing of subs in these "Clubs" of six will bring in \$3. The Comrade will send \$2 covering the six subs to the National Office and retain the other dollar as commission, or if the Comrade prefer books instead a choice of literature to the value of \$1.25 may be had. All Locals are urged to line up as many Comrades in the work as possible.

The enlarging of Proletarian News or its more frequent appearance, or both, is entirely dependent now upon income, the main source for which must be through the locals. Local Flint is paying for 250 copies a month for free distribution. Other Locals are selling as many as possible of the bundle order and distributing the balance. At the present cost of the quantity printed, if we received 2cents for every copy it would just cover the printer's bill. Locals, where possible, should increase the size of their bundle orders, provided of course that they can pay for same.

Efforts will be made to improve the contents of Proletarian News. Comrades are urged to write more for the paper. The Editorial Board can do much better when it has a greater variety of articles at its disposal. Send more news of local activities, give details. Comrades in Chicago cant write about what is happening elsewhere unless the information is sent into the National Office. Give as much advance notice as possible. The paper usually goes to press the last week of the month. Pay for bundle orders promptly. Get Subscriptions.

CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY.

The report on Charles H. Kerr & Company showed the urgent need for the Party to raise money to pay upon its account with Kerr & Co for literature used up in Party building. A special letter is being sent to all Locals with practical detailed suggestions in this relation. Several books are out of print that should be gotten back into stock as soon as possible. At present 3 pamphlets are being reprinted. They are "Communist Manifesto", "Shop Talks On Economics", "The Right to be Lazy." The publishing house has been a great aid to the Party. The Party should make an effort to aid the publishing house. New pamphlets are ready for publication but there is no money for that purpose. Suggestions from Locals would be welcomed.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The N.E.C decided to call a Convention of the Party. It will commence on Saturday, May 27th, in the City of Detroit. It was further decided that the expenses of Delegates would not be guaranteed, but that some money would be raised, especially for Delegates from locals on Atlantic and Pacific coasts. However, that does not mean that efforts will not be made to meet as much expense as possible. A Convention Fund will be started at once.

PRE-CONVENTION DISCUSSION.

In conformity with the usual practice of the Party there will be the period of open discussion. This pre-Convention Discussion will commence February 1st and close May 1st. Comrades who desire to take part in open discussion in writing should begin now and have it into National Office as soon as possible. The last of the written discussion should be in the National Office by May 1st.

The open discussion in the locals should not be started before February 1st and efforts should be made to close it by May 1st, after which time Delegates should be elected. The National Executive Committee will apportion delegates and notify all Locals before May 1st. More information can be had by Locals, not experienced in pre-Convention discussions, by writing to the National Secretary.

The purpose of pre-Convention discussion is to unsparingly criticise our own shortcomings, to the end that theoretical and tactical weakness be purged from the Party. However, the present position of the Party holds for our propoganda and agitational work. It is not suspended during the discussion period. The discussion is confined to the membership. Any sort of change can be advocated at the Local meetings, or through writing to the Party Bulletin. Locals can send Delegates instructed in accordance with the majority opinion of the Locals or they can send delegates uninstructed if they so desire.

While practically an unlimited range of discussion is permitted during this open period, the decisions of the Convention are final and binding upon the whole membership. After the Convention has taken a stand all differences of opinion are settled. The will of the Party, as expressed through its highest body, the Convention, must be the will of the entire membership. What is formulated and adopted as Party theory and practice must be strictly adhered to until the next period of open discussion arrives.

Comrades, now is the time to advocate the changes which you think the Party should initiate at the coming Convention. Care must be taken to see that Party discussion does not take place in the presence of non-members, or that the written discussion does not fall into the hands of strangers. Conditions today call for a thorough-going discussion of the Party in all of its aspects, both from an internal and an external point of view, but always upon the basis of Party loyalty, to build not to tear down, to strengthen, not to weaken, our Communist understanding and practice.

M O N E Y !

We have been trying to avoid discussion of this disagreeable subject, altho we have already hinted in this Bulletin that we are still in need of it. The beginning of 1933 saw our N.O Treasury below zero, in fact about fifty below.

On the matter of meeting obligations to the central machinery of our Party a sort of defeatist attitude has crept into the ranks of many of the Locals. The attitude could be expressed as follows "Money is so hard to lay hands on, why bother to try at all. Just let things drift."

The Party Constitution calls for a "weekly taxation of each local according to its ability to raise funds, this ability to be determined by the National Executive Committee."

This weekly taxation has been left more or less upon a voluntary basis. Some locals, the larger ones especially, just ignore this part of the Constitution, yet these locals want and do receive much N.O service. This is not consistent. Every Local in the Party should see to it that no week goes by without some-cash is sent to the National Office. If you cant send dollars send dimes, but send something. Even postal stamps are better than promises.

We quite understand the difficulties locals have in meeting local expenses, but if Locals quit at that point there will be nothing for the N.O to carry on with. Dont be quitters. The P.P is needed by the American workers more than at any time in the past, but we have to reach out to the workers, enter hundreds of places that so far have not heard of the Proletarian Party.

Party organizers today can and do move around on less than at any time in the past, but still they cannot move entirely without cash. The neglect of this important matter often results from the indifference of local officers. Each member of the Party can render a service to the National Office by raising the question in the Local meetings; "When did we last send CASH to the National Office, and how much?" And, again, "Wsn't there a few dollars we could send now?" Right at the present time it is not difficult to organize new locals, but organizers need to be sent out. Comrades, your consideration for the Party as a whole should come first.

D U E S.

Our membership is higher than it was a year ago. We have some locals that we did not have then, but less money is now coming in for dues. This is because so many unemployed Comrades are on Exempt Stamps. This must be made up for by direct donations. Put your PENNY-A-DAY lists into circulation now. Plan a special drive for the PARTY EXPANSION FUND. How about it? LET US HEAR FROM YOU. BE A BOOSTER. BUILD THE PARTY BIGGER AND BETTER.

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