

The Young Worker

Official Organ of The Young Workers League



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Liebknecht
Born
1871
Assassinated
1919

JANUARY, 1923

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Vol. II. JANUARY No. 1

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of the Young Workers League of America

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WE BEGIN THE NEW YEAR

WITH a little self criticism. The Young Worker feels that nothing is such aid to growth as balanced self-criticism. We have by no means reached perfection nor anywhere near it. We want to move ever forward and learn by whatever mistakes we make.

In the first place we must confess that it is not so easy to turn out a monthly which will be exactly suitable for our many needs. Our one organ has to serve many purposes and incorporate a thousand and one continual features within its few pages. To turn out the suitable magazine is a matter of experimentation and experience, which we are gradually gaining.

If you will look back over our past issues, you will most likely notice that it has more the theoretic tinge rather than a homely practical color. You will however notice that we have been trying to overcome this tendency lately and get more articles of a practical turn at the same time short and sweet in length and character. The latter cannot be accomplished at one blow. It will take a little time to get adjusted. Besides we must have more contributions from the League members so that there may be more material of varying sorts to pick from. Although we have a few comrades who can fill up the magazine with good material if need be, the magazine would suffer from sameness. The more variety in presentation the better our magazine will get across.

In the past we have been too impersonal. The magazine must become more personal so that every League member will feel that it is his magazine and will come to love and take personal pride in it. To get this personal touch we must have your personal experiences, pictures of your hikes—accounts of your adventures and your ventures.

We should have one or two short articles per month of a propaganda nature so that an outsider picking it up can gain something or so that we can hand it around as educational or propaganda material. You propagandists and agitators, get busy.

If possible, we should have a short play, sketch or story—here is an excellent chance for the would-be authors. Also a little poetry scattered throughout the paper would not harm its general character.

If all of us chip in, contribute articles and make the magazine a combination fighting monthly with personal touches and literary features on the side, our magazine will attract a larger circulation and then be able to increase its size and hence the better possibility to develop its variegated character.

Also, all you critics and character assassins, get busy and

criticise when you think something needs improvement. We are not afraid of criticism, especially if it be constructive and given in good faith. In fact we welcome any honest criticism which will help us improve our magazine. But beside criticism we also want material. That is the biggest thing. Send in your material and we will give you a magazine that can't be beat.

YOUR COMRADES IN PRISON

SIX members of the Young Workers League are included among those arrested in Michigan, charged with violating the Criminal Syndicalist Law of that state. Warrants are out for the arrest of others. The charges against these and all the others arrested or sought arises from the fact that they have been achieving success in rousing the American labor movement out of its lethargy, at a time when the employers were bent upon completely destroying it.

It is not the State or County authorities in Michigan that are conducting this case officially, but rather the Department of Justice. In reality it is the same body that demanded the infamous injunction against the striking railroaders. It is Washington, the official mouthpiece for Big Business that is conducting the trial against the militant workers who were arrested at Bridgeman or in Chicago in connection with that case.

The necessity of giving immediate aid to those still in jail or under indictment cannot be urged too strongly. We must prepare to meet this latest onslaught of the American ruling class—not by petitions or pleadings for amnesty—but by working harder than ever to organize and educate the young workers to their true position in capitalist society.

The strongest defense that we can make against these aggressions of our ruling class is to undertake an offensive. We cannot sit idly by while provocators, stool-pigeons seek to destroy our movement from within, while all the available powers of the state are mustered to break it up from the outside.

In many cities the Young Workers Leagues are already lined up with the Labor Defense Councils. Where they have not done so yet, we urge them to attend to this important matter immediately. There is no time to lose.

Those who attend school should make use of every available opportunity to bring this case to the attention of the teachers and students, and wherever possible, obtain moral and financial support from them. That is a field which we can reach more easily than any other group of workers.

We are relying upon you, comrades, to do all you can for the imprisoned ones. If they are convicted on the basis of these trumped-up charges, who knows to what lengths the ruling class will go in its endeavor to stamp out every semblance of working class organization, conservative and revolutionary. Redouble your efforts and extend the activities of your organization in every conceivable way in order to rouse the working class and the youth in particular to the significance and necessity of getting these men free, and then to build up a mass organization of the workers—one that really and truly represents the working class.

A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT

ALTHO you and I are permitted to participate in selecting those servants of the public, who are to administer the affairs of the nation for the welfare of the general public (providing that we have arrived at the age of 21 years, are native born or naturalized citizens, and that we have resided in a definite section of the country for a long enough time so

(Continued on page 7.)

Martyrs to the Revolution

By O. CARLSON

BACK in the days when this country was agitated by the propaganda of the Abolitionists, and at a time when the sentiment for freeing the chattel slaves had not yet become popular, James Russell Lowell wrote a stirring poem on **Freedom**, the last verse of which reads:

They are slaves who fear to speak
For the fallen and the weak;
They are slaves who will not choose
Hatred, scoffing and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink
From the truth they needs must
think:

They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three.

The applicability of this verse to the present time need not be dwelt upon: it is obvious. The fact remains, however, that many, many of us fear to stand in the forefront of an unpopular cause. Just now there is nothing worse than being a revolutionist. It requires back bone and grit to espouse the cause of the working class. But during the stormy days of the war it was even worse. Of the many thousands of class conscious workers, but a handful were ready to sacrifice themselves when the war-hysteria was rampant. Of them, there are many still in jail. Most radicals preferred to keep their opinions to themselves when it was too dangerous to speak. This was true, not only in America, but everywhere.

Of these who were not afraid to champion the cause of the proletariat during those dark days, none can compare with Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. These two were universally hated and loved more than any other two people in the world at that time. The work which they did in helping to break down German militarism and international capitalism cannot be over-estimated.

Four years ago (January 15th, 1919) these two dauntless leaders of the German proletariat were foully murdered—murdered by the upholders of Junkerdom, under the protection of "Social-democrats." Four years ago, these two staunch and fearless spokesmen of the oppressed were ruthlessly assassinated. Four years ago there perished two of the bravest and best champions of workingclass emancipation that the world has ever known.

When Keir Hardie died at the outbreak of the war, a veteran socialist was lost. But Keir Hardie was, at best, a reform socialist. Tho he waged a long and bitter fight against the forces of English Imperialism, nevertheless his opposition was in no way so great nor

his attitude as uncompromising as was that of a Liebknecht.

When Jean Jaures, that remarkable French socialist and orator, was killed by some hysterical patriot at the very beginning of the world conflict, we knew that a great loss had been sustained. But Jaures was essentially a pacifist, not a revolutionist. His reformistic position had been obvious for more than a decade. He had championed the entry of socialists into a capitalist class ministry as early as 1900. When we bear these facts in mind—and when we remember how Herve, the greatest of all French pacifists became an ardent supporter of war—we know that the loss was not so great. In fact, we are glad that he did not live long enough to become a social traitor like Millerand and Albert Thomas and Guesde (his old associates).

But when brave Liebknecht and dauntless Rosa Luxemburg fell, then we knew that a tremendous blow had been struck against us. During those critical days in 1919 the German workers were more and more heeding the clarion call of the Communists to overthrow the psuedo-socialist republic that had been established. Every day that went by was throwing larger and ever larger masses of the

discontented proletariat into the ranks of the revolutionists—whose leaders were Liebknecht, Luxemburg, Mehring, Zetkin, and Jogihes.

The first outbreak in January failed. The Spartacans (Communists) were not well enough prepared, but they were confident of their success in the next outbreak. So were the Noskes, the Eberts, the Scheidemanns, the Stinneses, hence social-traitors, capitalists, and Junkers decided that there was but one remedy: To strike down the two foremost leaders of the revolutionary movement, thus breaking the morale of their followers. This was done. True enough, the blow was so great that the workers were unable to reassemble their forces at once. Of the entire leadership only Klara Zetkin remained alive, for Jogihes, too, was murdered in prison, while old Franz Mehring, unable to stand up under the stress and strain died at his home almost immediately after these foul deeds had been perpetrated.

In each and all of these, we, the young, lost our best friends and sponsors. Liebknecht had been among the very first to urge the organization of the young work-



KARL LIEBKNECHT.

ers both nationally and internationally. He it was who helped formulate their programs and devise tactics for winning over new masses of the youth, and for breaking down the ideology of capitalism, so firmly planted in their minds. He it was, who gave the impetus to the Anti-military agitation that was undertaken by the Young Workers' Leagues of Europe. He it was, who went to the youth when social democratic parties had been whirled into the maelstrom of war and nationalism, to begin a new, a truly revolutionary, an internationalist party.

Karl Liebknecht's career was a brilliant and stormy one from the time he left the university and threw himself into the work for the revolution. His book, "Militarism and Anti-Militarism" caused a sensation in Germany. The government ordered it suppressed and Liebknecht was given a jail sentence. Later, as a member of the Prussian Landtag he was the most outspoken antagonist that the Capitalists had. When he was elected to the Reichstag from Potsdam, the home of the kaiser and his satellites, the enthusiasm of the workers knew no bounds. He used every opportunity to show up the sham, the deceit, and the brutality of the capitalist system. He had no faith in bourgeois democracy, but maintained that it must be overthrown before the masses could hope to live a life worth while. During the days of the war Liebknecht's voice was the one clear call to the workers to cease the slaughter and to turn their guns against their oppressors.

"I have offered resistance to the capitalistic government of Germany in order that an end be put to its destructive campaign against the masses of the people. I have revolted against ruling classes of Germany in order that the people may be saved by wrenching it out of their predatory grasp. I have torn the mask from the imperialists, the would-be benefactors of the people, so the people may see who are their real enemies and free themselves from them. I fight the governments and ruling classes of all countries on behalf of the laboring classes of all countries," such are the words of Liebknecht.

There is no space to deal here with the remarkable work that Liebknecht performed for the working class. And Rosa Luxemburg too, despite prison sentences, despite persecution, despite the lies and slander that was spread by yellow-socialist and bourgeois press alike, continued to do heroic work for the cause of the downtrodden and exploited masses. Her keen logical mind and her impassioned speeches were wonderful stimulants to the discouraged workers, and were equally feared by the social-democrats and capitalists.

Leo Jogihes, the great organizer, and Franz Mehring, the foremost journalist and theoretician in the revolutionary movement of Germany, were able collaborators with the two others in building up the organization and the revolutionary understanding and spirit with which they hoped to do away with master-class rule for all times to come.

Liebknecht, Luxemburg, Mehring and Jogihes perished in the struggle for working class emancipation. With these valiant fighters out of the way, the Imperialists and their supporters breathed more freely. Now to the task of exploiting the masses more ruthlessly than ever before! The revolutionary leadership was dead. But its death did not mean that the revolutionary movement was dead. It had merely received a setback.

Today—four years after the murder of these comrades of ours—the hour is almost at hand when their death will be avenged. Not their death alone, but the death of all who have had to perish on battlefields or in workshops in the interest of the ruling, exploiting class. The army of the revolutionary workers is daily growing larger and larger. Out of its ranks are arising new Liebknechts, new Luxemburgs, new Mehrings, new Jogihes, ready and anxious to lead in the combat.

The class war goes on with ever greater fury. It rages in Orient and Occident alike. While the older fighters fall by the wayside or are swept into the ranks of the enemy, our ranks are being filled with young blood. Youth, with its ardor and enthusiasm, is joining in the fight; it is rallying to our banner—the banner of the workers. Little by little we are winning, thanks to the good work of such pioneers as Liebknecht and Luxemburg. We are marching on to a new day. Already we see the rising sun. Russia has shown the way. And as we go forth, fighting for the abolition of wage-slavery, of masters and slaves, of ignorance, of religious bigotry, of nationalism—let us ever bear in mind that "The Future Belongs to the Youth."

PRELUDE TO PROPAGANDA

Go! my venom-fashioned words.
Go! little scorpions.
Fly forth and sting!

Sting the master, sting the slave,
Sting wage-slavery to its grave,
Sting the serf in mine and mill,
Sting him to revolt, until
His age-old helotry at last
Is buried with the serfdoms of the past,
Where Freedom's dawn is red upon the hill!

Oh, give me deeper venom for my words!
Go! little scorpions.
Fly forth and sting!

Sting the master till he bleeds
Blood-red drops at every pore—
Drops as red
As the tears of little children shed
In shaft or mine or on the factory floor,
Or as the blood of Labor's martyrs, which has run
Red from the slugger's club, the bayonet, the gun—

Not him alone!
Go, sting the slave!

Sting him! as he sinks beneath the load,
Sting him! as he writhes beneath the whip,
Sting him! deeper than the master's goad,
Sting him! till at last the slave lets slip
The leash on all the pent-up hatreds of his class
And sounds the hour of triumph for the mass,
When all the tyrannies of earth go down in one red
wave,
Where Freedom stands, her foot upon the grave.

Go! my venom-dipped ones.
Go! little scorpions.
Fly forth and sting!

—S. P. (From Solidarity.)

The Most Interesting Thing in the World

By EARL R. BROWDER

IF a popular vote were taken as to what is the most interesting thing in human life there is no doubt what the verdict would be. Just take a look at the flood of books, the kind which people read just for the sake of reading—love stories, all of them. Examine the daily paper to see what is read with the most avidity—love tangles, the crimes based on sexual interest. And so if we think the majority is always right, we will have to accept the verdict that the relations between men and women constitute the most interesting thing in the world. But I venture to challenge that verdict. Without one syllable to belittle the allurements of sex, a weakness for which I myself cannot disclaim, it still remains a fact capable of demonstration that the revolutionary movement outweighs all other human activities in intensity and continuity of interest.

That this is not true for most people, is a fact. Only a relatively small group of people have penetrated to the absorbing heart of the revolutionary movement, and know what intense desires find satisfaction there, and what continuous and sustained pleasure comes from finding a place of real function, of service in the working class movement. And, of course, what most people don't know anything about it is very hard to tell them. For those outside of the secret, we must fall back upon the cold arguments of logic, and marshal the child evidence of scientific investigation.

First of all, let us be clear that we accept the fundamental economic basis of the revolutionary movement. The workers are thrown into conflict with capitalism by their economic interests. The final justification of the proletarian revolution lies in the economic reorganization of society. Without this basis all is vanity. But "economic interest" is a formula which cannot in the slightest degree explain the individual motivation of those thousands who throw their lives into the revolutionary movement with no hope or possibility of reward other than the joy of doing the work.

I take it for granted that all readers of THE YOUNG WORKER accept the necessity for an adequate cause for anything. When countless thousands of people sacrifice all their personal economic interests, and often many of their personal emotional interests, for the labor movement, it can only be because they find a greater interest, a more sustained interest, in that work. It is not an explanation to call such people

"nuts"; that only means they are different from the majority. If these "nuts" are intelligent, capable of conducting the ordinary affairs of life, are practical men and women in other ways, then if they still persist in ignoring their conventional interests for the purpose of creating a revolutionary movement, the laws of logic will insist that they are receiving some compensation, that some interest of a consuming and persistent nature is finding its flower in that activity.

And where else can we find a body of men and women whose regard is less material, than in the revolutionary movement. By all of the ordinary standards there is nothing but loss and punishment for being a

revolutionist. Yet in the face of all discouragement and persecution, a constantly growing mass of workers are responding to the urge of historic forces. Slowly indeed, but surely and persistently, the revolutionary movement all over the world is consolidating itself, and preparing for the great day when the great emotional interests will be identical with the economic interests in demanding the overthrow of capitalism.

Unless we are prepared to dismiss the revolutionists as insane people, which

they clearly are not, the necessity for finding a cause of their activity requires the acceptance of their word when they say that in the revolutionary movement they have found the most interesting thing in the world. Nothing but some new and deep satisfaction could possibly recompense these fighters for the persecutions, the heartaches, the hardships, that they must undergo for their activity.

What makes this deep interest? Of what does the reward consist? That is a long, long story, and the only way to really find out is to get into the revolutionary movement and experience it first hand. By all the laws of reason and logic we have proven that this elixir of youth, the most interesting thing in the world, is in the revolutionary movement. It is not for us to bring it to you on a platter. If you want it you must go and find it for yourself.

WHY do workers stick to the revolutionary movement when the reward is persecution, misery, heartaches? Earl R. Browder, Editor of the "LABOR HERALD" discusses the question of what interests adherents to the worker's cause. Is it true that: ... the revolutionary movement outweighs all other human activities in intensity and continuity of interest? What makes this deep interest?

NEWS OF THE Y. C. I. CONGRESS.

In our next issue we will print some of the proceedings of the Third Congress of the Young Communist International, attended by an observer of the Y. W. L. Don't fail to order the February issue early.

Wilhelm Weitling-- A Forgotten Pioneer

By O. C.

ALL of us know more or less about such men as Marx, Engels, Bebel, Liebknecht, who were the founders and inaugurators of revolutionary socialism. We have become somewhat familiar with names like those of Saint Simon, Fourier, and Robert Owens as the leaders in the Utopian Socialist movement, but there are not many who are aware of the fact that Wilhelm Weitling was the first successful agitator among the workers of Europe during the years from 1830 to 1848. His conception, faulty tho it may have been, did much to arouse the workers in France, Switzerland, and Germany. It was largely thru his tireless efforts and incessant propaganda that the spirit of revolt was fanned into flame, which manifested itself thruout the whole of central Europe in the stormy years of 1848—1850.

Wilhelm Weitling, was born in Magdeburg, Germany, in 1808, the son of a poor soldier. From the earliest days of childhood he felt the cruel fangs of poverty. At an early age he was apprenticed to a tailor and he served under him until the age of 18, when he became a journeyman. Speaking of his rebellious spirit, he once said, "If I many times boil up in rage on account of the wretchedness of society, it is because I in my life have often had the opportunity of seeing misery near, and of feeling it, in part, myself; because I, as a boy, was raised in bitterest misery, so bitter, indeed, that I shudder to describe it."

About the year 1828 he began his wanderings, and from that time was on the go until the days of his death. His mind was bent on reform. Already in 1830 he had written a number of articles, but which no one would publish. Gradually his ideas matured, and his agitation for Justice began to manifest itself.

Conditions at this period have been described as follows:

"We find ourselves in the midst of the troublous times between the July revolution of 1830 and the March revolution of 1848, between the two capital cities where life and thought of the two great European nations focus. The great French revolution and its immediate effects had become history. Its sacrificial fires had gone out in the temple of Vesta, but sparks were glowing still on household hearths before the Gods of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. Napoleon's dramatic career had closed, but its influence was still mighty among the reconstructed states of Germany. A new generation had sprung up and a new code of ideas had been formulated. In France, constitutionmongers had given way to social reformers; in Germany, advocates of republic and unity siezed the opportunity for political agitation. In France, new social theories were being discussed and social Utopias invented; in Germany, political emancipation from feudal conditions was the one united aim of the discontented classes. In both countries secret clubs and unions were formed for the propagation of the new ideas. While the Revolution of 1830 added to the list of liberties enjoyed by the French people, it caused the German people on the other hand to lose even the meagre liberties which they had."

Young Weitling went first to Leipzig, then to Vienna, where he worked for a while as a gardner, but condi-

tions getting too hot for him to remain there, he went to Paris, which was at the time the center and hot-bed for all revolutionary movements. Arriving there 1837 he joined one of the secret organizations, known as the "Society of the Just." Here the various socialistic theories were studied and discussed. That of Babet seemed to find the greatest number of followers.

It was not long ere Weitling became one of the most prominent members of this society, and its leading agitator. In 1838 he published his first book, "Mankind, As It Is, and As It Should Be." It seemed to take well, for within two years it had been translated into several languages. Then, in 1840, the organization sent Weitling to Switzerland with a view to spreading their propaganda and forming new branches of their organization. He went. There were a few revolutionary organizations in existence already, but now nearly extinct. Weitling, as a good tactician, joined these, and by a process of boring from within, soon gained adherents to his own views and formed a separate society. The following year he began publishing a monthly propaganda organ entitled, "The Cry for Help of the German Youth." Its policy was expressed in the motto, "Against the interest of the few in so far as it works injury to the interest of all, and for the interest of all without excluding a single individual." But the paper failed.

Not to be discouraged because of the difficulties encountered, he started another paper in 1843, "The Young Generation" which was confiscated by the authorities. His "Guarantees of Harmony and Freedom" was secretly published in December of that year. Meanwhile he was organizing everywhere possible. Soon there were branches in a great many places. The local and national authorities were greatly worried over the agitation, so Weitling was seized, his home searched, and masses of documents, literature, and correspondence taken. He was given six months imprisonment and banished from Switzerland for 5 years. Upon being taken across the border into Germany, he was at once held by the Baden authorities who shipped him to Magdeburg where he was held as a refugee from military service. Within a short time he was released, and proceeded to Hamburg. In August he went to London, England, where he was hailed as a martyr.

"He spoke at a meeting on the 22nd of September, at which the Communists of many land were present primarily for the purpose of greeting him. He closed his speech with the toast—"The Young Europe: may the democrats of all nations, casting away all jealousy and national antipathy of the past, unite in a brotherly phalanx for the destruction of tyranny and for the universal triumph of equality." In 1846 the *Rhenische Jahrbucher* speaking of this meeting said: "The proletariat of all nations begin under the banner of communistic democracy to fraternize." Professor Adler considers this meeting the first in which the socialists of various countries came together in common and emphasized the cosmopolitan principles of socialism and says that it led to the founding of the International."

It was shortly after this, in Brussels, where Weitling first met Marx and Engels who had fled to Belgium.

They had many long and animated discussions. Weitling was essentially a Utopian, and above all a believer in the principles of Christianity, which sought to harmonize with those of Communism. He turns to the Bible to establish his own theories, saying, "The premise of Voltaire and others was that religion must be destroyed in order to rescue mankind; but Laménais, and before him many Christian reformers, as Thomas Munzer and others, showed that all democratic ideas are the outflow of Christian Religion, then, must not be destroyed but used for the rescuing of mankind... Christ is the prophet of freedom; His theories are the theories of freedom and love."

In a letter to a friend he says, "I see in Marx nothing else than a good encyclopaedia but no genius." He sailed for the United States late 1847, but returned to Germany upon news of the revolution there in the following year.

The revolutionary movement collapsed, and Weitling, who did much good work during that time, was once more forced to leave the country in 1849, again coming to America. He formed a Laborers' Union in New York city with the idea of supporting a communistic colony in Wisconsin. The scheme was actually put into operation, and "Communia," as it was called, lasted for several years before it collapsed, but thru no fault of Weitlings. Returning to New York he procured a position as a clerical worker, and from that time till his death was more or less inactive.

Altho he could never agree with the communistic principles as laid down by Marx and Engels, being more of a schemer and dreamer, still shortly before his decease became more reconciled to them and gave advice and aid to the members of the International, when its headquarters were transferred to New York. In fact, three days prior to his death, on January 22, 1871, he was the main speaker at a brotherhood fete of the English, French, and German sections of the International in New York.

Dawson says "Weitling may rightly be called the Father of German Communism." Professor Clark

speaks of him as "The most prominent socialist agitator which Germany produced prior to 1846, and when all the facts are known and rightly judged, perhaps the greatest single agitator, with the single exception of LaSalle."

Engels refers to this "Social-Democratic tailor" already in 1846 as "The only German Socialist who has actually done anything." Karl Marx too recognized his abilities, saying, "Concerning the educational condition or the educational ability of the German laborers in general, I am reminded of the gifted writings of Weitling, which often even surpass Proudhon, however impracticable they may be. Where could the bourgeoisie—their philosophers and learned writers taken together—show a work equal to Weitling's **Guarantees of Harmony and Freedom** in relation to their political emancipation!... the jejune and feeble mediocrity of German political literature be compared with this incomparable and brilliant debut of the German working men."

Weitling has been dead for more than half a century, and his name is now almost forgotten, but the seed he sowed is still bearing fruit—for the revolutionary movement of the working class no longer counts its adherents by the hundred or the thousand. Their number is legion.

Weitling is gone, but the Youth of today is bearing the banner that he unfurled so long ago. They have no false hopes nor illusions but their faith in the victory of the proletariat is as great as was his.

In closing this short sketch we can do no better than to quote from Vachel Lindsay's poem "The Eagle That is Forgotten" for nowhere is it more applicable than to this sturdy pioneer of Communism.

They call on the names of a hundred high-valient ones,
A hundred white eagles have risen, the sons of your sons
The zeal in their wings is a zeal that your dreaming began
The valor that wore out your soul in the service of man.

Sleep softly . . . eagle forgotten . . . under the stone.
Time has its way with you there, and the clay has its own.
Sleep on, O brave-hearted, O wise man that kindled the flame—
To live in mankind is far more than to live in a name,
To live in mankind, far, far more . . . than to live in a name."

(Continued from page 2.)

as not to be disfranchized) still we do not seem to make much headway in selecting servants that look after our (the workers') interests. Of late it has become an everyday occurrence for local, state or federal judges to render decisions unfavorable to organized labor. The injunctions which have been granted by them to employers, have constituted a weapon against which the workers have had to wage an unequal fight.

Theoretically speaking, anyone, even a working man, may petition for an injunction. But in actuality, the case is somewhat different. You are compelled to show that your business is being injured. Injunctions have to do with **PROPRETY**, not with irreparable injury to life, to health, to comfort, or to happiness.

Another matter to be considered is the question of the courts. There are still too many workers who believe that they are extremely unbiased, that, in fact, there is something holy or divine about them. The judges are supposed to be the living incarnation of Justice. Representative Chas. Booker thought somewhat differently when he said:

"Let me say to you that more crimes have been perpetrated against the liberty and lives of the people by judges of courts than were ever perpetrated by the people themselves."

To this we may add the words of Prof. H. E. Seager of Columbia University, who says:

"I don't know how any fair-minded person can question but what our judges have shown a decided bias in favor of the employers Under our legal system, the principal task of the lawyer is to protect property rights, and the property rights have come to be concentrated more and more into the hands of corporations, so that the successful lawyer of today, in a great majority of cases, is the corporation lawyer. His business is to protect the right of employers and corporations. It is from the ranks of the successful lawyers for the most part that our judges are selected, and from that results inevitably a certain angle on the part of a majority of our judges"

Evidence is overwhelming to uphold the truth of these assertions.

It has remained for the Harding administration, however, to use the injunctions openly by the government against the workers. Daugherty's name would sink into oblivion within a short time, were it not for his connection with this injunction. The same is true of Judge Wilkerson, who granted the injunction.

Ex-president Taft once said that the American courts typify the judgment as it will be meted out in Heaven. If such be the case, then there is but one thing we can recommend to the workers in the supposed life to come, namely: Go To Hell.

The Fascisti "Revolution"

By A. D. ALLBRIGHT

ON November 11, 1918, the world was saved for "Democracy" we are told but still four years later we hear rumblings that would indicate that Democracy is not safe everywhere. In one corner of the globe to our surprise and horror we see a mighty organization of liberty loving, freedom worshipping patriots take up arms again for Democracy. Let us see what all this noise of the "Fascisti Revolution" in Italy is about.

The first question that arises is what brought this mighty organization of one million reputed membership into being? From whence sprang this mighty champion of "Justice"? To answer that clearly we must go back to the date of its birth.

Following the World War, Italy as well as all other European countries, experienced a revolutionary upheaval, which lifted the hopes of the working masses to the highest peak, only to be dropped to the depths of despair as a result of the traitorous, wavering policy of their leaders, who sold the revolution for a bag of promises which never were kept. The capitalists, quick to sense their opportunity, began casting about for a weapon with which to wage their counter offensive against the disheartened working class. The situation was so critical that they could not rely on their allies within the ranks of labor, as the capitalists of Germany did, so they seized the Fascisti as the last straw with which to save their sinking system from being totally submerged. So having this powerful backing the Fascisti launched their campaign of "anti-Bolshevism" which in reality was only a smoke-screen to get in a death blow at all labor, and all labor organizations, as subsequent events have shown.

What kind of material is this organization composed of? Working class? The Chicago Tribune answers this question very nicely in its November 9th issue. They frankly state it is the "middle class rallying point for law and order, and patriotism." In an editorial on November 4th the Tribune says the Fascisti Revolution was not a bad revolution; it did not "change the existing order of things"; it was a "revolution against revolution!" What does this mean? It means counter-revolution against the workers, a counter offensive of the capitalists against the militant working class, an "open shop" drive of the bosses carried to the final stage.

In the policy and program laid down by the Fascisti government since it has come to power not one word is said about compensation for the unemployed; not one word about helping the crippled ex-service men; but the ten points of their program are all for big business—in the interest of the capitalist class, for the enslavement of the working class. Their slogan is "back to normalcy—and a little better." Point two of their program says they intend to "speed up industrial production;" point six, "to maintain Italian influence in the near east;" point seven, to develop Africa; point eight, to oppose a strong navy in sister states; point nine, to maintain an efficient Italian army and train the whole nation to fight. "We have seen that being a little sister to the great powers is a profitless and thankless game," they say. The capitalists of Italy

did not get as much of the spoils of the last war as the other powers, so now the Fascisti, acting on behalf of these imperialists of Italy are pursuing a policy that will serve the imperialists best. So from their program we can say with the Tribune that their revolution is not going to change the order of things (unemployment, low wages, wage cuts, poverty, etc.) for the working masses, but is going to increase the exploitations of the working masses, and give greater power to the capitalists.

Since the class character of the Fascisti has been determined, let us now take a look at the personell of the organization. Earnest Hamilton of the Chicago Herald and Examiner gives us some very interesting information on this point. He says that ninety percent of the "Black shirts" are under thirty years of age, ex-soldiers who never had worked and who would grasp any opportunity to fight (it matters not for whom rather than work, rif-raf whom the capitalists ever use against the workers; and a great "number of middle-class youths, who saw a good opportunity to crush organized labor." To make this aggregation complete, two traitors are at its head—Benito Mussolini, former editor of the socialist paper *Avanti*—and Edmond Rossoni who made fire-brand speeches through the United States ten years ago. All great movements have their traitors, as even Jesus had his Judas, and the labor movement is no exception.

On the Bloody Trail to Power.

Only since the Fascisti have taken over the reins of government officially has the press of this country given their deeds any notice. What led up to this they say not a word. Let us look along the trail they have traveled and see what they left behind.

When the Fascisti was first organized, the working class was so strong and militant that the Fascisti dared not show its head, so they organized "underground." Then as their cry of "Patriotism" began to rally the petty capitalist and capitalist patriots to their standard and the fire of the revolutionary masses began to die down owing to the stupidity of their leaders, the Fascisti came out in the open and raised the cry of "anti-Bolshevism," burning the Communist paper *Avanti*, and arming themselves to the teeth. The workers soon learned what anti-Bolshevism meant. It meant the attacking of union meetings, breaking up of mass meetings, and burning of union halls and labor temples. In short it meant an attack all along the line upon the whole working class, no matter how conservative nor how radical.

These "White Bolsheviks," as they have been branded, have committed more crimes against the unsuspecting, terrorized working people of Italy, than the Belgians did in their infamous treatment of their black slaves of the Congo. Their favorite tactic is the so-called "punitive expedition," which is simply a wholesale attack upon a labor organization, and shooting, burning, kidnaping, torturing workers. Picking up a daily paper in Italy any time, you would find headlines like these: "ARMS AND PROJECTILES IN TURIN," "MASKED FASCISTI ROB 33,000 LIRE," "TWO DECORATED EX-SOLDIERS SERIOUSLY

WOUNDED BY FASCISTI," "A FASCISTI EXPEDITION ON RIVALRO DESTROYS A GREAT AMOUNT OF PROPERTY."

Let us hear the story of one of these raiding parties told by a worker who was "among those present":

"On the night of Saturday, April 15th, towards three in the morning, a thousand Fascisti coming from Bologna and Ferrara, surrounded and invaded our district. Their goal was to terrorize and destroy the labor organization that remained affiliated to the local labor council. Armed with revolvers, rifles, and hand-grenades, they fired many thousand shots. They invaded the homes of the known Socialists, many of whom they dragged out and mercilessly clubbed. The mayor, Zardi, was made to resign. Over twenty were seriously injured by the ferocious beatings. The labor temple was sacked and burned, as were many of the workers homes."

Besides this periodic outbursts of patriotism—ten or more in number, Perugia, Tyrol, Bologna, Grosseto, Piatcentca, Regio, Milia, Ferrara, and others—they have tried to crush with an iron hand any person or organization they could not dominate. Even those who advocated a democratic form of government were mercilessly put down by the Fascisti. The Socialist and Communist parties received such violent treatment, that the Socialists have lost the majority of their membership, and the Communists have been forced to work under cover. Finding that their assault upon the Communists has not exterminated them, they have made new onslaughts and have invented new cruelties with which the Indian tortures of the first white settlers in America do not compare.

The Fascisti hatred of the working class as a whole is great but their hatred of the young workers has no bounds. This is only natural since the young element in the labor movement is the only one that has the temerity to oppose the White Terror, and in the forefront of this opposition stands the Young Communist League of Italy. They have had the nerve to send out the cry to the working class youth of Italy, "**Down with the dictatorship of the White Guard,**" and have backed up that cry throughout the whole land by throwing themselves into the front ranks of the conflict. The Communist Youth have become so active and fearless in organizing the struggle against the Fascisti, that they have gained the confidence of the working youth, and the entire working class. They are feared and watched by the Fascisti, who hate them bitterly. Many young Communists have paid with their lives in the struggle against the Fascisti.

Good Revolutionists.

The most astonishing thing to any thinking worker of America is the attitude of the "Democratic" press of this country, in regard to this so-called revolution in Italy. They come out frankly and say it is a "good revolution," a revolution to their liking. They say not one word about the suppression of free speech, free press, and freedom of assemblage; not one word

against the bloody civil war that has been raging in Italy; not one word against the firing upon unarmed men, women, and children; not one word against the killing of workers and the burning of their homes and labor halls; but instead they praise the Fascisti leaders and dub the Fascisti the "hundred percent patriots of Italy."

The Chicago Tribune of November ninth, this year carries this headline; "FASCISTI LIGHT WAY FOR EUROPE MIDDLE CLASS." In their editorial of November fourth they say, "So far it will seem to Americans so good." In other words the capitalists of this country frankly tell the working class that they will not hesitate to use an American Fascisti, if necessary to hold the workers in subjection. They sanction the tactics of the bloody White Guards of Italy, but they denounce as red terror the taking over of power by the workers of Russia.

It is the same Tribune that on November eleventh denounces as "murder" the militant action of the miners of Herrin, Illinois where the miners gave the scabs and gunmen of the company some of their own medicine, after seeing two of their comrades killed in cold blood by the gunmen. When it is armed assault **upon** the workers and even revolution in the interest of capital—the killing of working men, their wives, and children—it is patriotism; but when it is the protection of the workers right to live, by arms against armed gunmen, and revolution in the interest of the working class, it is "MURDER."

The Boston Evening Transcript of November fourth, this year, states its position very clearly. In one place they admit that, "Direct action has been characteristic of their (Fascisti) movement." Throughout the article they praise the leaders of the Fascisti and praise their actions and methods, and in another place they state; "Beyond doubt their latest achievement constitutes the most forceful manifestation of virility and of national faith which has appeared since the war in any country of Europe."

This is the same Transcript that recently "exposed" the Communists arrested in Michigan as being dangerous because they advocate revolution and direct action. Why this contradiction in their articles? The difference is this; the direct action of the Fascisti is action against the workers, which all capitalists are in favor of; but the direct action they allege the Communists to be in favor of, is action by the working class against the capitalist class. Therefore they praise the Fascisti and slander the Communists.

The great lesson for the young worker of this country to learn from the Fascisti is: that they must organize now in order to put up a united fight when the capitalists turn their White Hounds of reaction against us. It is the young workers that will have to bear the brunt of any white guard attack. In the past we have had to fight the capitalists' wars for them, but now we must constitute a wall of defense for the working class, the only fight we can be proud of as workers.

The Conference For Progressive Political Action Ignores the Problems of the Young Worker

By HARRY GANNES

IT was not because the Young Workers League of America is politically subordinate to the Workers Party that the National Committee acted to send a delegate to the Conference for Progressive Political Action which met in Cleveland, December 11—12; but realizing the need for a Labor Party, formed mainly by the trade unions and the working farmers organizations of this country, it was decided that our organization should be among those who are taking a leading and militant part in urging the formation of Labor Party. Further, if a Labor Party was to be formed, it was necessary that the position of the organized young workers be stated at that gathering so that demands of the youthful toilers would be fought for and efforts made to draw the young of the working class into the political struggle on the side of the workers.

In conformity with a motion passed over a month ago, a resolution was drawn up (published in another part of this paper) and given to me as delegate to be presented at the conference. Never before in this country had a revolutionary youth organization, on its own initiative, undertaken to take part in so important a political move as that of aiding in the formation of a Labor Party.

I arrived at the Conference, which was held in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineer's Auditorium, early Monday, December 11th, and presented my credential to Otto Branstetter, secretary of the Socialist Party who was a member of the credential committee, and who watched zealously every bit of paper handed to his committee. At the outset, the delegates of both the W. P. and Y. W. L. realized that their credentials were not going to be accepted with open arms. A bitter struggle was looked for.

It must be borne in mind that the machinery of the Conference was well in the grasp of the reactionary union officials who had taken control when the movement was first organized in Chicago in February of 1922. The meeting place of the Conference was changed from Chicago to Cleveland because there is "too revolutionary an atmosphere" in the first mentioned city. William Johnston, President of the International Machinists Union, had been elected chairman of the committee in charge of the Conference and he acted as chairman of the Cleveland meeting.

With a speech literally loaded with meaningless, petty middle class phrases, Johnston opened the Conference never once mentioning the terms "independent political action" or "Labor Party." The speech was taken very dryly by those present. In it, Johnston made a studied effort to avoid the least semblance of reality and an understanding of the bitter conditions of the American workers and farmers.

Then came the report of the credentials committee. Railroad union delegates predominated, the Amalgamated clothing workers were given a seat and voting strength commensurate with their size; a number of non-existent, paper organizations were given representation; newspapers and publishing houses were included. The United Mine Workers, after a foolish

blunder, were seated. The Socialist Party was favored with seven delegates. But nothing was said of the credentials submitted by the Workers Party and the Young Workers League. A minutes silence followed the conclusion of the report. Then C. E. Ruthenberg, secretary of the Workers Party, rose to the floor and asked the fate of the W. P. delegates. J. G. Brown of the Farmer-Labor Party of Illinois replied, saying that no credentials had been received; and he had hardly finished his sentence when delegate Keating, editor of "Labor," brusquely walked to the front of the platform, looked wildly at Ruthenberg, and burst out: "Let's face this right now! Let us not send it back to the credential committee. Whether these men have submitted credentials or not, they should not be considered. We will kick them out; this convention will not permit these men to sit here."

"What's the reason?" called out Dennis E. Batt, member of the Proletarian Party, representing the Michigan State Federation of Labor. "Because the Workers Party is un-American and against the constitution and the flag." Jeers and loud boos greeted Keating's remark. He continued:

"These men are in the pay of the employers . . ."

"That's why they're in jail!" interjected William F. Dunne of the Workers Party.

After Keating had finished his attack, Rodley B. Cramer of the Minneapolis Labor Union Assembly pointed out that the Workers Party in his city was an educative force; that to take Keating's attitude was to place oneself with the anti-labor Department of Justice and the notorious William J. Burns. "It is credential enough that these men are prosecuted by the same people who tied up the railway unions funds."

Though but a few minutes were consumed in a consideration of this matter, it was without doubt the liveliest event of the conference. The discussion had gone too far for the comfort of the reactionaries. Without much further ado, the whole matter was referred back to the committee and the conference went smoothly on—to stifle all efforts for the formation of a Labor Party. Not one word of protest was offered by the so-called Socialist Party to the "100 percent American" effusion of Keating. They swallowed it hook, line and sinker. Some of them even grinned mischievously.

Together with C. E. Ruthenberg, Wm. F. Dunne, Ludwig Lore and Caleb Harrison, I went before the credential committee. Some questions were asked of the W. P. delegations to determine the stand of the Party. The committee was plainly told that the W. P. stood outright for the formation of a Labor Party. "But your program is based on a clear-cut class issue—the class struggle," said Brocke one of the committeemen. "The Socialist would claim the same, more or less," replied Harrison.

"Do you believe in democracy or dictatorship?" questioned Branstetter with a diabolical look on his face.

"Democracy doesn't mean anything now," retorted

Harrison. "We know this, that there is a dictatorship of the capitalist class in this country; and we stand for free speech, free press, free assemblage—in fact, we want to wrest all the democracy we can from the ruling class."

The committee was satisfied. It needed no more discussion.

Next day, the first things in the morning's session, the credential committee again reported. Additional delegates were seated from local unions. Ending his report, the chairman of the committee announced: "We urge that the Workers Party and the Young Workers League of America be not seated as the principles of these organizations are not in harmony with the purpose of the Conference." Quickly, Johnston, the chairman, asked if there was any objection to the committee's report. Without waiting another moment, and just as Delegate Cramer was rising to the floor, he declared the report adopted and the matter closed. A point had been won by the reactionaries against the Labor Party, as the most aggressive organizations at the conference for independent working-class political action had been brazenly excluded.

From then on officialdom had but little opposition. Everything went through as it was cooked in the committees. A few feeble voices were raised for a Labor Party but the delegates for this proposition, of which there were goodly number, lacked the courage to buck the machine.

Hillquit, high mogul of the Socialist Party, took a prominent part in "fixing" the action of the conference and seeing to it that things went "straight." He suavely flitted on and off the platform, glibly juggled embarrassing issues, and acted generally as oil can for the machine.

The question of the situation of the American young

workers was totally ignored. Why shouldn't it be in a Conference of labor mis-leaders composed about 75 per cent of men over fifty years of age; men incapable of grasping the bitterness of the lot which is the fate of the majority of the American laboring youth? That two million children bleed and sweat for the profit of the capitalists was no concern of respectable labor leaders bent on killing efforts for the formation of a Labor Party. What matters it that one million of young workers 14 years of age yearly are dumped into mine and mill and factory; what difference does it make to a labor politician if ten million young workers remain unorganized, many act as scabs and a large number be recruited as white guards? So they proceeded with their political bartering and pushed in the background the questions which the working class faces from day to day—questions which effect their very being and life.

In spite of the fact that there were a large number of delegates present whose rank and filers are unqualifiedly for the formation of a Labor Party, the controlling officials were able to dodge the issue for the time being. Though they did everything to quash the spirit for a genuine Labor Party and were in a great measure successful in forcing a most spineless and vacillating policy of action on the Conference, those responsible were and are unable to efface from the mind of the great majority of industrial workers and working farmers the sentiment and hope and demand for a Labor Party.

Regardless of the temporary defeat, as was put forth in the statement issued by the Workers Party and Young Workers League of America: "The workers will have their way." And the Young Workers League, now in the fight, must carry the issue in every conceivable way to the masses of the workers. A Labor Party must be formed: A Labor Party will be formed.

Form A Labor Party!

*Conference for Progressive Political Action, Cleveland, Ohio.
Brothers, Fellow Workers and Comrades:-*

THE situation of the American working class demands that it begin to act politically. The American capitalist government has demonstrated to the full that it will not respect the laws guaranteeing the workers' rights. The right of free speech, free assemblage and free press, the right to organize, have been trampled on in a most brutal fashion.

The recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court, in annulling the Child Labor Law, and the Coronado decision, but above all the Daugherty injunction, which was sustained by the court in Chicago, reveal clearly that the organized workers of this country have no rights.

The free use of the employers have made of thugs, gunmen, guards, spies and stools,—without the prohibition of the government,—and the direct interference of the National Government with its troops in behalf of the capitalists, demonstrates beyond all question that the workers of this country will not obtain any rights unless they organize politically.

The policy of the American Federation of Labor of "rewarding the friends and punishing the enemies of

labor" has not helped labor in the least. On the contrary, in 1920 Mr. Gompers reported to the Convention of the A. F. of L. that "scorned by Congress, ridiculed and misrepresented by many members of both Houses, the American labor movement finds it necessary to apply vigorously its long and well-established non-partisan policy." The application of this policy resulted in the following: In 1919 Wilson, the Democrat, used troops against the steel workers and in 1920 threatened the United Mine Workers and the Railroad Workers with martial law; in 1922 Harding, the Republican, sent troops against the Miners and threatened the Railroad Workers with the same fate. These are but examples. The workers stand before the worst oppression—they face a practical military dictatorship.

The recent elections represent but a return to the same Democratic Party that used the same methods against the workers. Even the "Progressives" will not be able to turn the government from its natural course and function of protecting the capitalists against the workers.

The youth of this country are experiencing condi-

tions of labor no better than the adults. Because of their age their lot is a considerably harder one. More than 12 million workers under 25 years of age are employed in American industries, on the farms, the stores, under any but favorable conditions. More than 2 million children under 14 years of age toil away their little lives to grind out profits for the greedy capitalists. Experience has shown that only where the working class has exerted political power have the children been protected from brutal exploitation.

The illustrations enumerated indicate that only political action side by side with united action on the economic field, will aid labor in its struggle for better conditions. We call upon the Conference for Progressive Political action, therefore, to take a stand in favor

of a LABOR PARTY, to be composed of organized labor, the small working farmers, the working-class political parties, and the organizations of young workers. We call upon you, in the interest of the American working class—the adult and the young workers—to take the necessary steps in this direction.

Only a Labor Party of this nature—with a clear-cut working-class program, which recognizes the interests of the working class as opposed to the capitalist class—can save the working class of America from further and complete enslavement.

For the National Executive Committee,
YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA
Harry Gannes, Nat'l. Secretary.

Some Problems

By WILLIAM REYNOLDS

WHOEVER attends meetings of Young Workers and gives some thought to problems of organization must conclude that meetings conducted in a manner to make the proceedings interesting and to leave a good impression on all those participating or observing is the first condition to the establishment of an influential League.

The present writer, who has had rather extensive experience in young workers organizations, recently attended a meeting of a branch of the Young Workers League of Chicago which seemed to embody all those conditions and incidents which have no place in a properly conducted meeting, and that some good may come of so much bungling we shall try to draw some lessons from their mistakes.

An impression prevails and is often expressed and carried into effect that the chair of an organization is the logical training place for those with no training in parliamentary procedure and that a new occupant should inflict his inexperience on the body each meeting. Nothing could be more illogical from the point of view of the league's welfare. Few people are fitted by temperament to be good chairmen and these need practice and conscientious study of the problem. To pass around the chairmanship as an honor may be gratifying to some persons of very great ego but the practice reduces the meeting to a level where the honor becomes a bore which few are willing to accept. The choice of a chairman is an important function of a Young Worker's League and once one is found who knows his function is to maintain decorum and facilitate business and not to express opinion, he should be retained for a definite period and re-elected unless there are very good reasons for retiring him.

The chief objection to a permanent chairman is that each member must acquire a knowledge of procedure to fit him for leadership in trade union and other related organizations. The League must be a training ground for young workers, but we must be careful not to jeopardize its healthy existence by illadvisedly stressing one of its functions. Classes in parliamentary procedure can be conducted much as economic classes are, though much more interestingly as was our experience in Detroit some years ago. Making points of order in a business meeting to show ones superior understand-

ing of **Robert's Rules of Order** is a manifestation of childishness which those so afflicted must grow out of.

Equal in importance to the orderly conducting of a meeting, and, in fact, one of the conditions of orderliness is a properly functioning executive committee. Decisions can be made and details of program worked out in fifteen minutes by an intelligent committee which if taken up by a large body with no set program or well defined purpose may lead to hours of fruitless discussion and wranglings. It may safely be said that two-thirds of the inefficiency, mistakes, discouragement, and failures of Young Workers Leagues are due to the neglect of executive committees to work out programs, take care of routine matters, consider prospective candidates as to their fitness, and intelligently supporting the chair in difficult situations.

"Any movement which promises to change conditions will always attract first of all the freaks, the cranks, the unbalanced persons—all those whose psychic weakness makes it hard for them to get along in a world as it is."—Floyd Dell in **Moon-Calf**.

Every Young Workers League has them and it is due to the heritage of milk and water democracy and Christian Socialist brotherly love, bequeathed us by the past that they, along with the tradition of temporary chairmen, are tolerated to curse our movement. The odds we struggle against, the disabilities of inexperience and discouragement are great enough without harboring these by-products of capitalism to impress each new recruit that we are merely sorry victims of the struggle for existence. The increasing bitterness of this struggle is convincing our older comrades that these freaks are a menace, and we may expect them to drift to us in increasing numbers. We must convince these well intentioned derelicts that as America is no longer a political asylum, we cannot longer safely remain an insane asylum. If we are not determined to become strong we may as well disband.

These are only a few of the problems which confront us, but they are perhaps of the most pressing. On the solution of these depends the retention of a larger percentage of the young workers and students who come to us, linger a while and pass on disheartened by our inefficiency or sickened by the adult freaks (who orate, sing or recite) whom we are too timid or tender-hearted to kick out.

The Industry with a "Soul"

By OLIVER CARLSON

AND a child was born in Bethlehem. In the early morning hours, while the blue-black sky was speckled here and there with clusters of twinkling stars, there was born a puny child in the city of Bethlehem. The crude hovel wherein it first saw the light was scarcely fit for human habitation. Mary, the mother, looked down upon the new-born, her eyes glistening with tears. Who knows what thoughts and fancies passed by her inward eye as she hushed the feeble cries of the little one that had come to her on Christmas morning. Who knows what wonders this plastic form may yet accomplish?

Was it the son of God that had come to earth? No. This was the son of man, and it was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Its mother was Mary, wife of a laborer in the steel mills. No wise men came to worship at its shrine. No angels' voices could be heard singing "Peace on Earth. Good Will to Man, for Christ, the Savior is born."

It was a cold morning, and soon the shrill whistles would screech and blow, betokening that the time had come when father and a few thousand other slaves would be released from their arduous tasks, while other thousands, must, perforce, take their places.

* * *

What is the lot of those who must live and die in the centers of America's Steel Industry? How about the children? What does life mean to the sons and daughters of the men who must toil, ten, twelve, and fourteen hours per day for seven days of the week in the mills of the United States Steel Corporation? These are questions which have never been definitely answered.

Steel, Coal, and Oil are the three basic factors in modern industry. The United States Steel Corporation, organized as such in April, 1901, has become one of the greatest if not actually the greatest industrial combination on earth. Its total assets are listed at \$2,430,000,000. It owns 145 steel works, 993 miles of railway, 1470 locomotives, and 112 steamers. It also possesses about 800,000 acres of coal and coke properties. During the year of 1920 its gross volume of business amounted to one and three quarter billions of dollars. But that is not all. It is also interested in a great many other industries, thus many of its directors are also directors in express, telegraph, terminal and steamship companies having a total capitalization of nearly one billion three hundred million dollars; in banks and trust companies whose capital, surplus and undivided profits amount to three billion three hundred million dollars; in other industrial corporations whose combined capitalization amounts to two billion eight hundred million dollars; and in the railways of the United States to the extent of ten billions of dollars out of the total of eighteen billions invested in them.

From the above figures we can readily grasp the idea of what an immense power there is in such an organization. To be sure, there are more than 100,000 stockholders, but a **majority of the stock is held by less than two per cent of the stock-holders.** Kirby Page, who has made a comprehensive study of the U. S. Steel Corporation says: "The vast majority of the stock-

holders take no active part whatever in determining policies. **Actual control is in the hands of the thirteen directors, six of whom are also members of the Finance Committee.** He continues "This concentration of control is brought out even more vividly in the address of Judge Gary at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Corporation on April 19, 1920, in these words, 'Since the United States Steel Corporation commenced business on April 1, 1901, there have been held, including the present one, nineteen regular and also ten special stockholders meetings. I have had the honor of presiding at every one, and of voting the **major part of all outstanding capital stock.**'"

Judging by the above the control is indeed a highly concentrated thing. Evidently this gigantic corporation has been making plenty of money. Up to 1920 more than \$900,000,000 in earnings had been re-invested into the organization. A total of \$574,000,000 had been set aside for depreciation, depletion, sinking and replacement funds. Dividends totaled \$1,002,000,000, while there remained a total undivided surplus of more than \$523,000,000 at the end of 1920.

It is well for us to bear these figures in mind when we are told about the 16,000 children who must slave away their lives in the hell-holes where flow the molten steel and iron. It is well for us to think about these matters when we consider that the twelve hour day is still the standard day for those hundreds of thousands of creatures that burn away their lives in the mills at Gary, Hammond, Pittsburg, Bethlehem, Youngstown and the other centers. It is well to recall the tremendous profits of the handful of real owners of the U. S. Steel Corporation at the same time when we are told about the efforts of their employees to organize, and how this same corporation used every means of terrorism, force and violence to crush and subdue these men.

Someone has labeled the U. S. Steel Corporation "the corporation with a soul," for it has erected a few rest rooms, ball parks and other things of a like nature. But how about its labor-spy system, which permeates to every nook and cranny of the organization; which seeks out all who have progressive and radical ideas, and then proceeds to black-list them? How about the thousand upon thousands who are maimed, or killed each year because of the failure of the company to properly protect its workers? How about the miserably wages paid to the majority of their employees? And the wretched shacks (most of them belonging to the company) which the workers must live in?

Yes, it is a corporation with a soul—the soul of a demon, the soul of a mighty octopus, with its mighty tentacles reaching out to all parts of the country. Slowly, surely and relentlessly it crushes all that come within its reach, whether they be new-born babes or men and women in the prime of life. It sucks out of them their very life-blood, and with some strange Midas-touch turns their blood into gold.

It is an extremely difficult thing to obtain exact figures as to the ages of those employed in the steel industry, but it is an obvious fact to anyone who has been thru any of the steel mills or lived in one of the steel-towns that a very great percentage of the workers are young. I have already mentioned the approximate

number of child-laborers. The number of workers between the ages of 16 and 20 years is very large.

There is no more strenuous work than that of the steel workers, whether he works around the blast furnaces, puddling or blooming mills, the rail mills, plate mills, bar mills, sheet or tin-plate mills, or in the open-hearth furnaces.

In every case the work is done under very high temperatures, while there is a constant danger when working with the white hot or molten steel. Then too, the long hours, which with the necessity of laboring seven days per week deadens the intellect and saps ones vitality so that he lasts only a few years. That being the case, imagine what it means to the younger elements who are forced to labor under such terrible conditions, day after day. Then, since the pay is never too big, they are forced to live worse than animals. The sole enjoyments of these workers are booze and women; booze to make them forget the woes and the hellish life that they must lead,—and women to satisfy their animal wants. That is why there are to be found so many soft-drink parlors and saloons in the immediate vicinity of all steel mills. There they can buy "moonshine", and there too, in the back parlors they can find the painted ladies who will satisfy their other needs at so much per. These places have a continual flow of customers. No serious attempt is ever made to get rid of them, in fact, the employers consider them quite necessary.

Only the strongest and healthiest men can work in the great steel mills. Weaklings succumb at once—and yet, the percentage of disease in all steel centers is very high, and the death rate among infants is almost appalling. No serious effort is made to give a proper education to children or adults in those districts. The population, which is largely foreign, remains illiterate. By very subtle methods, the companies play upon the national prejudices of the various groups to keep them more or less hostile and jealous of one another.

A great deal of publicity has been given to the fact that wages are very high for the workers in the steel industry. That is a falsehood. For, while there are certain groups of skilled workers who do earn a bit more than the average worker in other industries, the facts of the case are these that the unskilled laborers (who make up the bulk of the workers) are getting an amount considerable below the yearly minimum wage that the government contends is necessary for a family to exist on. This too, remember, on the basis of a twelve hour workday, and working six days of the week, 52 weeks in the year.

There is no one who cares to work such long hours, but necessity compels more than 70,000 men and boys to do so.

The purpose of this article is not to point out what must be done to overcome such conditions. That will be dealt with in a separate article in a later issue of the *Young Worker*. All that we care to do at this time is to present some of the outstanding features of this tremendous industry, which so nearly dominates the whole social and political life of America. Wm. Z. Foster's "The Great Steel Strike" gives a clear picture of the gigantic struggle of 1919, while Mary Heaton Vorse's "Men and Steel" gives us more intimate pictures of the lives, the thoughts, and the actions of the thousands who help to swell the coffers of the U. S. Steel Corporation. Last, but not least, there is the

Report of the Commission of Inquiry of the Inter-church World movement, which lays bare the nature of the "soul" of the Steel Corporation, and brings to light the cruelty, despotism and tremendous exploitation that is being carried on by it.

I have had an opportunity to visit some of the great steel mills and to talk with the workers in them. It is a pitiful sight to behold the thousands of weary wage slaves as they stagger homeward after the many hours of work. Surely such a procedure, though it may pile up riches and power for Judge Gary and his associates, is at the same time breaking down at an all too rapid rate the very foundations upon which those fortunes are being built—the lives, the health, the bodies and minds of the workers and their families.

* * *

What can the future have in store for the child who was born in Bethlehem early Christmas morning? Mary, the mother wonders about it. Will her boy be forced to feed the furnaces with coal and iron and lime, and with it his very life? Who knows. Father and the other sons are at it now. Their tired bodies and dull minds demand nothing more than a bit of food, some shoddy clothing, and a place to sleep. Sleep, yes, that is what they want, for their waking hours mean work,—long, long, weary hours of work.

And so she wonders if HE, the youngest, will have to go through life as they do—but perhaps, perhaps, he and others like him, will revolt against this all. Isn't it possible that he will help to inaugurate a new world, a better world? Peace on Earth? Not while the few grow rich at the expense of the many.

The door opens. Father enters. "Huh, another brat! What is it? A boy. Good. Can help to keep the family going. Christ, but I'm tired!"

Old Desire

By Virgil Geddes

There is a place within the soul of me,
A place grown warm by some unburnt-out fire;
Since art and song take none of this from me
I feel the urgent need of an old desire.

An old desire that puts to shame this song,
Inflames the youthful impulse that I knew,
And does not seek escape from life's good song
But holds that life with freedom is for you.

That life with freedom is for you and me,
Encumbered though we are in utter toil;
And fatigue shall not take this from you and me
While hope is our dear brother of the soil.

For Revolution

By Virgil Geddes

For revolution I would lend my name,
For one small tumult with the people's cry,
Though I be left a cinder from the flame,
Or be a gentle stranger passing by.

Let these few hours use me in their toil,
Let these dull days take from me what they can,
For I shall rise, as spring grass from the soil,
Arise and sing the words of free-born man.

So let these hours use me as they may,
For I hold true a joy that lingers long,
For those who live within a future day,
And find a revolution in my song.

Realities We Must Face

By S. B. FIELDS

SOME time ago a number of us were discussing policies and organizational work as related to the Young Workers League. One of the boys in the course of his remarks made a significant remark which though crudely expressed has struck us as indeed worthy of elaboration. "No one," he said, "will stick to an organization if he can't get something out of it." The remark may seem open to criticism and will perhaps shock some of our more idealistically inclined members but I for one hold it to be true, a thing that most will grant after a few moments thought.

Getting something out of an organization does not narrow down to but one thing. It is not, as some may think, merely monetary or material consideration. It may be the latter or may be physical or mental satisfaction. The one who joins a sick and death benefit society gets distinct material and monetary benefits. He who joins a debating society develops his forensic abilities. If he joins an athletic society or similar organization, he develops himself in those fields. All of those gain or are satisfied in one fashion or another. They belong to these societies or organizations so long as they continue to get that something which they look for out of them.

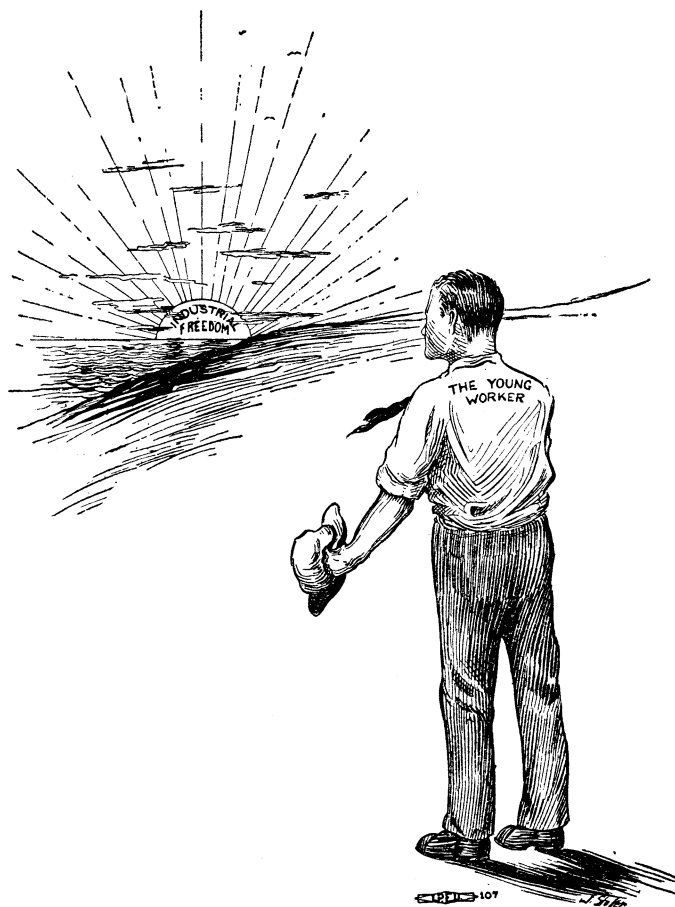
Is it the same with belonging to the Y.W.L.? I hold that we stay in the Y.W.L. so long as we get something out of it. When it ceases to give us something we quit. What do we get? No, no jobs that will feed us—we are more likely to get "canned" from our jobs if our boss finds out where our activities lie. What we do get is a certain amount of compensation either in comradeship, in companionship, or the joy of doing something creative no matter how gray the task seems at first. In such an organization we help to build, we do pioneer work. We are continually on the job doing what way down deep we really like no matter how we grumble on the surface. Of course such action causes temporary discomfiture at times. Often there is a tug of war between doing work for our organization and going out to have a good time elsewhere, but he who decides on our work is not the loser. He gets as much pleasure in the feeling that he is overcoming what amounts to a lesser stage of development in himself as he would get if he were to indulge in the good time elsewhere. We could go into even greater detail to

show that we stay in the Y.W.L. for the reason given at the beginning, but it would seem a play on words. Suffice again to assert that we stay at that thing out of which we get or gain something, be it comradeship and friendship of a character before unknown, the feeling that one is advancing in one or another direction, or material benefit of one sort or another. Personally, I am not as much concerned with the theoretical significance of this as its practical lesson to the Y.W.L.

If we grant the above contentions and our aims are to broaden and strengthen the Y.W.L. we must look into the matter of making it such an organization as would make it attractive not only to ourselves but to the young workers whom we want to join us. This does not mean that we must make our organization a self-admiration society, a dancing club, or anything which would be contrary to its fundamental purpose. It simply means that we must cast about for ways and means, consistent with our general aims, whereby we can attract our fellow young worker and once attracted, to make him feel always that he is really getting something out of his organization so that he will stick. Those of us, arrived at the stage, know that our degree of general conception of things is most assuredly a higher stage. We must therefore erect a step

ladder of attachments whereby we can get others to the point where they also will get great joy in helping build such an organization as ours; where they will get something more out of our organization, built as an instrument of the class struggle, than other activities will provide; where association with co-workers, where comradeship will be a big thing to him, one of the biggest things that can be gotten out of life.

If we would seek methods, we must examine the methods of our enemies who have had much more experience in entangling the young in the meshes of lies than we have with getting the young to see the truth. Take the practice of many churches. These churches have their football teams and baseball teams and their other affairs of interest to the youth. Starting in this fashion, they get these very same boys and girls to attend the Sunday Schools; later, or at the same time. Speaking to a radical woman in one of the cities of the Northwest who had a grown son, I was informed in the process of our discussion that her son was on



a church baseball team. To join that team was his only opportunity to get some fun and be with a number of his friends. Though the boy has many radical thoughts I have no doubt that his playing on that team and his contact with others who have been drawn into obeying every mandate of this particular church will sooner or later draw him in also.

Take the Y.M.C.A.'s and Y.W.C.A.'s. On the one hand they inveigle the young into activities of vital interest to them, and, on the other hand, they poison their minds with all sorts of lying propaganda. Yes, I say we must learn from our enemies. They have studied the minds of the Young far better than we can hope to ever study them under the present system and they use their knowledge to hide the crying truth or turn the youth against their own class. Thus they lead them into such morasses as the Boy and Girl Scouts, the American Legion and the Sentinels as well as the thousand and one other smaller organizations.

These organizations work also on the theory that we belong only to things that we get something out of. Hence they give the boys and girls basketball, baseball, football, outdoor activities of various sorts, etc. This is their introduction, the first stepping stone to something more subtle; finally, they grade him or her up to the desired stage.

I am not afraid to admit openly, even if our enemy does make use of such statement to spread the cry that we are concocting plans to ensnare the minds of the young with "dangerous, red doctrines"—I say I am not afraid to admit, that if we are to succeed in carrying across our working class message, we must adopt the self same tactics. The tactics are sound. That our enemies use them to mislead does not make them taboo for us who will use them to lead our fellow young workers to working class solidarity.

Our practical course is before us. The Y.W.L. has passed its preliminary organization stage. We have an excellent national organization. We have a basis from which to start. We must now seek these practical ways and means to continue our work. Born in strife and struggle, born at a time when the power of reaction and oppression was great in this country, there was somewhat of a tendency to the more theoretical rather than the everyday practical. That markedly theoretical stage is past. On with the actual work.

What should our actual work consist of? We should engage in athletics—not alone does athletics help to build the body, but is a means whereby comradeship and emulation between the various leagues and hence better contact will be established. It also attracts sons and daughters of the workers. These begin by getting lots of fun out of an athletic event and end by coming to other events of educational or similar nature—and finally arriving at the stage where we find ourselves.

We should hold get-together dances—affairs for our own League members and friends whom they want to introduce into things—these should not be money-making-affairs and should be held entirely distinct from the affairs we hold for such purposes.

We should arrange hikes and other outdoor events that cement healthy unity of the League and those who are friends of its members. The outdoors is a great attraction for the young—witness the great success of the Boy and Girl Scouts. Much can be gained by appropriating some of the latter's experiences.

And we should have plays staged and given no matter how small they be at first or how poor in expert material. The Finnish comrades all over the country are great at that sort of thing and have done quite a bit along these as well as athletic lines. Wherever there are branches of the League in the vicinity of a Finnish Workers Hall, they will find the Finnish comrades very willing to help as they are quite experienced and obliging in these matters.

This brings us to another matter. We must have plays of our own, plays that will be interesting and at the same time carry across our revolutionary message. All our would-be authors and playwrights should get on the job and do their very best. Europe, as usual, has set an inspiring example in this direction. We in America must catch up and show that our revolutionary youth is capable of producing its dramatization of the class struggle.

To anyone seeking precedents for what has been set forth above, let me point to the Youth movement of Europe where all these forms of activities mentioned are developed to a very high degree; where it is realized that these practical measures go a great way to bringing up close to where we want to be, among the masses. The masses are not attracted by high sounding phrases but by practical measures, which bring them across the bridge to us.

A YOUNG-OLD MAN GREETES US

Dothan, Oregon, November 27, 1922.

Greetings:

From an old scout of 70, last birthday. Wish I had the power to help the young American worker, or rather, the whole, insane, crazy, dirty, savage system. My first act would be to install a whole set of school books . . .

Money order is enclosed in your favor for \$1.25. Wish it was ten thousand. We must do all we can for the young. I wish you great success in your timely and imperative undertaking. I enjoyed your sample copy very much. My hobby is reading. The school master, Mr. Boman, that taught me how to write my name 48 years ago told me some few things I never forgot.

"Crime and the Working Class Youth" by Harry Gannes, and "Culture, Science and Working Class Education," by Martin Abern, is just fine—the whole magazine is a real live wire and to the point . . . Oh, if we could only capture the youth, the young folks—as they have in Russia.

The workers organizations in America are all shot to fragments; we can only hope that it is the darkness that foretells the dawn. Well, I repeat, good luck to the boys and to their movement. . . .

You might send me your program and so forth. I am getting a few days work here, but I may be cut off at any time; however, I have a twelve by fourteen cabin here a half a mile from the post office and will stay with it this winter. I have just enough money now to buy a sack of flour and a few other eats for the winter. This Jungle is in the southern Oregon mountains. There are a few stamps here, I see, and I will put them in this letter.

WILLIAM FURLONG.

News of the Leagues

THIS year, International Liebknecht Day, from all indications, will be commemorated more widely and more enthusiastically than any nation-wide demonstration ever engineered by the national office of the Young Workers League of America. With the many special supplies gotten out for this day, it should stand out distinctly as a successful move to acquaint the young workers of this country with the significance of Liebknecht Day and the purpose of the organized revolutionary youth organizations.

Large meetings are being arranged all over the country and especially in the industrial centers like Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, St. Louis big preparations are being made. Writes I. K. Lerner, secretary of the Y. W. L. of New York: "As to the kind of affair we are arranging here, it will be one of the first order. We have taken a large hall (Park View Palace, capacity 1500) and besides the ordinary speeches we are planning a fine musical entertainment." Advertising arrangements were also made. Chicago also is working on plans for a large demonstration. Philadelphia comrades assured us that Liebknecht Day there will outshine all previous attempts at mass meetings. The smaller Leagues must not be overlooked. Milwaukee, Daisytown, Monessen, Superior, Wisc., Duluth, Minn., Minneapolis, and many others are doing their best.

Goetz Organizes Two Branches.

At this writing, Alfred Goetz, Y. W. L. organizer now touring Ohio and parts of West Virginia, had organized two branches—Jacksonville, Ohio (composed mainly of young miners), and at Lore City, Ohio (also miners). Work of organization is definitely going forward in Akron, Kipling and Bellaire due to the efforts of Comrade Goetz. Besides building up the Y. W. L. Goetz has done good work for the Trade Union Educational League and has earned the commendation of Earl Browder, associate editor of the *Labor Herald*. Also Goetz is active in campaigning for the progressive candidates for office in the United Mine Workers of America. That's what you call participation in the class struggle.

Warren, Ohio, Grows.

Though recently organized, the Warren, Ohio, branch of the Y. W. L. is very active and is increasing its membership.

Max Greenberg of Superior, Wisconsin, has been appointed by the District office of the Workers Party to co-operate with us in organizing branches of the Young Workers League and due to his initiative was organized the Duluth branch of the Y. W. L. with 14 members; further, he is striving to organize other branches besides building up the Superior branch and placing it foremost as an active organization. The girls of the Superior branch greatly impressed the striking shopmen of that city when they took part in a tag day, collecting funds for the men on strike. Superior has also doubled its order for the *Young Worker*.

The Young Workers League of Neffs, Ohio, has 23 members in good standing, 22 of whom are union men—miners. This branch has a well organized athletic group.

Another Italian Branch has been organized in Philadelphia as a result of the efforts of Comrade De Fazio.

Henry Horenstein, city secretary, informs us that steps are being taken to make the League there function more efficiently than was the case heretofore and points to the fact that Comrade Herman Jacobs, N. E. C. member, has pledged a good share of his time to the up-building of the city League.

Wm. Schneiderman of the Los Angeles Y. W. L. reports: "Our semi-annual elections were held on November the 24th and the following new officers were elected: Fannie Zindler, secretary, and Esther Schneiderman, treasurer." And, "Through Comrade Milder's efforts we sold 40 copies of *Youth Under Americanism* at one meeting at which Dr. Kavinoky, just returned from Russia, spoke, which I think is a very good record." These comrades are having trouble finding a suitable meeting place.

Observer to Y. C. I. Congress Soon to Return.

Though no definite information has been received from our representative in Europe, we are certain that he is now on his way back and will be ready in less than a month to tour the Leagues. A. J. Murphy of the Monessen Y. W. L. was the first to ask for an Observer meeting and promise funds to tour the Observer. Daisytown will co-operate with Monessen in arranging a meeting for the reporter from the Young Communist Congress. Branches East of Chicago are urged to write to the national office asking that they be placed on the list for a visit from our Observer and we will give them a date for a meeting.

Branch Being Organized In West Quincy, Mass.

A branch of the Young Workers League is now being organized in West Quincy by comrades Helmi Haninen and Ellen Enquist.

Seattle contributed \$15.00 for defense. The following telegram was sent to the boys in the Berrien County Jail by L. H. Winter, secretary of the Y. W. L. of Minneapolis:

"Young Workers League of Minneapolis extends heartiest greetings to each and every one of the Comrades in their valiant stand against the attack on Labor. We are lined up with fullest support. Successful efforts in gaining co-operation from other labor organizations. Comrades, the Day to you!"

They urge other branches to do likewise.

Lawrence League Hit By Strike.

"The Young Workers League" writes Honre Victor of Lawrence, "was just started when the strike broke out and broke our League." He promised that all efforts will be made to revive the organization.

The Jewish speaking branch of St. Paul has also suffered reverses, but secretary Gotesman assures us "we are by no means discouraged and are trying our best to increase our membership."

Fitchburg, Mass. Organizes

We get this news from Arne Korin, Fitchburg:

"The young people of Fitchburg have got together and organized a Young Workers League..... As we have no money we hope you will trust us to send the money as soon as we get funds." Supplies were sent.

News of the Canadian Y. W. L.

"The Y. W. L. of Winnipeg held its first meeting on Monday, December 4. Considering that it was the first meeting and that no real working class youth organization exists elsewhere in the city, an attendance of

over thirty-five young workers was indeed remarkable. At this, the first meeting of the League, twenty-four members signed up and paid their initiation fees.

"The branch formed will be the central branch of the city and is composed for the most part of the sons and daughters of the more or less revolutionary workers of this city and because of their natural fighting spirit will be a real asset to the Working Class movement in general, and to the youth movement in particular. Other branches will be organized in the different parts of this city as the need arises.

"Perhaps the best thing about the movement in Winnipeg at this time, is the unusually bright future in store for it. At one time in this city, a Newsboys union was formed, but like all others unions of the unstable youth, went down when the immediate need for it ceased to exist. The members of this former organization still on the job, selling papers, will without a doubt enter our ranks in the very near future.

"So far as programs of sports and entertainments are concerned, a sports committee and an entertainments committee have been elected and are both on the job to achieve results.

"The future, then, is undoubtedly very very bright and we are already on the road to becoming an important factor in the revolutionary movement of Canada, and of the world!

"ALL SUCCESS TO THE WORKING CLASS YOUTH OF CANADA!"

"ALL POWER TO THE REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH OF THE WORLD!"

"For the Young Workers League of Winnipeg,
P. G. Herd, Sec'y."

To Hold National Conference

The National Bureau of the Young Workers League of Canada decided to call a national conference of the Y. W. L. of C. to be held in Toronto last week in February, 1923. The basis of representation shall be one delegate for each 50 members. The expenses incurred in sending delegates is to be met by the branches now existing in Canada. Donations are asked for by the National Bureau, to be sent to 519 Queen Street, West, Toronto, Canada to aid in calling the Conference and in building up the Canadian League. The Canadian comrades should respond without fail. Good work is also being done by the Canadian Leagues in arranging Liebknecht Day meetings.

The National Bureau has issued this message to the Canadian working youth:

UNITED FRONT OF ALL WORKERS!

Organizing in struggle against the economic exploitation of the Young Workers.

Helping to reconstruct the first proletarian state, Soviet Russia, because its struggles are the struggles of the working class everywhere.

For our slogan **DOWN WITH ALL CAPITALIST WARS.** The working class youth remembers the great war and its millions of victims who perished in the slaughter. Today the Near East presents a critical situation. But young workers are too weak in struggle alone. Only by a United Front of young and old can the working class triumph over capitalist exploitation and militarism. . . . United Front tactics should be discussed and put into work. We must do our part making the United Front of Labor a real issue in Can-

ada. Our duty is to acquaint the youth with the meaning of a **UNITED FRONT.** Carry the message into school, factory, mine and mill,—everywhere.

Your for a stronger youth movement,

NATIONAL BUREAU OF YWL OF C.

Proposed agenda for the YWLC National Conference to be held in February, 1923.

1. Opening of Conference.
2. Election of Credential Committee and their report.
3. Election of President for the Conference.
4. Election of Standing Committees.
5. Report of National Bureau.
6. Organization and relation to Workers Party.
7. Program and Manifesto.
8. Constitution.
9. Resolutions.
10. Election of National Bureau.

To You, New Reader

Several thousand new readers will for the first time with this issue read the contents of the **YOUNG WORKER.** If you are a worker—especially a young worker—this paper **MUST** appeal to you as the expression of the advance guard of the organized young workers of this country.

This should not be the only issue of the **YOUNG WORKER** you should read. If you are to know and understand the development of the revolutionary youth movement in the United States the **YOUNG WORKER** is indispensable to you. If you are a young worker, it is to your interest to read the young worker for in no other paper in the world are your interests put forward and fought for as in the **YOUNG WORKER.**

The **YOUNG WORKER** performs a useful function in the class struggle as the expression of the young workers—the most pitilessly exploited section of the working class. This is the only organ in the country which voices the feelings and aspirations of the young wage slaves.

Young worker! Worker! SUBSCRIBE NOW!

THE YOUNG WORKER,
2517 Fullerton Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

Comrades:

Enclosed is \$1.00 for which enter my name for one year's subscription to the **YOUNG WORKER.**

Name

Address

Begin my subscription with the.....
issue.

THE RED FEAST

By RALPH CHAPLIN

Go fight, you fools, your needless strife,
And spill each others guts upon the fields;
Serve unto death the man you served in life,
So that their made dominions may not yield.

Stand by the flag, a lie that still allures—
Lay down your lives for land you do not own,
And give unto the war that is not yours
Your glory tithed of mangled flesh and bone.

Ah, slaves! you fight your masters' battles well,
The reek of rotting carnage fills the air.
Your swollen bodies yield their noisome smell,
Sweet incense to the Ghouls who sent you there.

A feast of mother's pain is here laid low
For hovering insects hovering high;
Grey rats, red muzzled, thru the trenches go
Where your death-tortured features face the sky.

The maggots riot now on rotting men.
The grass is greener than it was before;—
But the dead cannot return again.
The ones who live must wage another war.

So stagger back, you stupid dupes, you've won.
Back to your stricken towns to toil anew,
For there your dismal tasks are still undone
And grim starvation gropes again for you.

What matters now your flag? Your race? The skill?
Oh, scattered legions—what has been the gain?
Once more beneath the lash you must distill
Your lives to glut a glory wrought of pain.
—“Bars and Shadows.”

Birthdays of Political Prisoners

Birthdays in January of political prisoners confined in American prisons are announced by the Workers' National Prison Comfort Club, 2923 Chestnut Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as follows:

At Leavenworth, Kansas, Box No. 7: Jan. 6, O. E. Gordon, Reg. No. 14805; Jan. 14, J. O. Bentall, Jan. 28, C. W. Davis, Reg. 13124.

At Repressa, Calif, Folsom Prison: Jan 18, Richard Ford.

Core Meyer, national secretary, invites sympathizers to send birthday postcards and letters to these political prisoners. Money is most advisable for gifts. For list of articles which may be sent into prison write the wardens.

A political prisoner in Dannemore writes: “I really didn't think anyone would care to interest him or herself in a man who wears ‘prison gray’ for having an opinion of his own. I was pleasantly surprised.”

A political prisoner in St. Joseph (County Jail) writes: “Received your card with feelings only understood by those of us who have ever been behind ‘iron bars.’ I thank you much, and am glad of the purpose of your club; this was the first note I received while in jail.”

A political prisoner from Leavenworth writes: “We can hardly bear the shock of Ricardo Flores Magon's death, tho told many times by him that he did not expect to live very, long, if he remained here.”

FROM THE Y. C. L. OF S. AFRICA

We have been receiving the literature you have been sending us, and have found the suggestions as to procedure, etc. very helpful. I am enclosing a leaflet which we had reprinted—with a few variations—from one received from you, and which we have been distributing at meetings.

* * *

“We have been holding Study Classes regularly, and our lectures and debates have covered a large range of subjects—both topical and educative. These include lectures on “Why I am a Communist,” “Industrial Autocracy,” “Simple Economics,” “Our Tasks,” Literature useful to Young Communists—Ancient, Medieval and Modern, and debates on “the pen is mightier than the sword,” “Women's Rights,” “Economic Reform is essential to Social Progress” (this with the members of the Y. M. C. A. Debating Society) and many others. These lectures and debates have been merely for the purpose of giving our members practice in the art of speaking, but we now realize that good, hard study is of more value than lectures, and have taken up a course of economics, starting right from the beginning again.”

YOUNG BLOOD

By S. B. FIELDS

Young blood, to you is giv'n the task
To build, to band, to hold together
To mend the breach where oft
'Tis riddled through and through
With lagging spirits, and flesh
Unyielding to the spirit's urge.

Young blood, 'tis you who'll save the day.
You who will bridge our weary moments
With spirits bubbling—all afire,
Unquenched by million little things
That line the way with comrades lost,
Grow weary in the uphill fight.

Young blood—your present task is great,
Yours to build and keep agoing,
Yours to fight a million odds,
Yours to smile, undaunted—bold,
Yours the task of revolution.

Grow weary, seared, and old with strife
The scarred in battle hesitate,
The flesh no longer yields as well,
A million ills loom up to daunt,
Barrier upon barrier rises—
Comrades—give way—you lag behind,
Make room—encourage younger blood,
Theirs is the day—theirs now to fight.
Up, up, Young Blood, and take your place,

In the darkness of night,
In the dawn of the day,
Carry on, fellow worker—Young Blood,
Lead the way,
Nothing must stop you
Though long is the path,
You must pilot our battle
Midst thistle and thorn
Midst great, angry waves
And squalls and great storms.

“The contradiction between the mode of production and distribution of commodities has led to periodic crises in the economic and social life of all capitalist nations. These crises have served as safety valves for the capitalist system. They have taken the form (1) Stoppage of Industry. (2) WAR.”

Innocent Young Workers In Michigan Jail Urge You to Get on the Job for Bail

Eugene Bechtold and Charles Erickson, members of the Young Workers League of America, are still in custody in the Berrien County, Michigan, jail as the result of the Burns-Daugherty red-hunting raid in which Wm. Z. Foster, Earl Browder, Wm. F. Dunn, and other labor militants were arrested.

According to capitalist law these young workers are INNOCENT of any wrong until proven guilty, but the bail fixed by the court in Michigan is so excessive that Bechtold and Erickson are virtually serving jail terms though not proven guilty and in spite of the fact that they were thrown in jail in an attempted frame-up to scare the railroad strikers into submission.

The only crime ever committed by Bechtold and Erickson was that of fighting in the front ranks of the organized workers, and that is the worst of crimes in the eyes of the capitalists of this country.

Because the capitalist court has set so excessive a price as \$10,000 for their liberty, is that any reason why these two workers should rot in jail? Our members are young workers,—consequently with but the slimmest means of raising so extortionate a sum as \$10,000. But that is no reason for inactivity while our comrades suffer in jail. We must do ALL we can.

Send in your pennies, nickles, dollars—the pittance you can spare from your ridiculously low wages. Get others to contribute. Acquaint your fellow young workers and workers generally with the REASON why these youthful workers lie in jail.

Get bonds. Go to the local union in your city and ask them to help you raise funds for bail—any kind of security, bonds, money and the like. Money and bonds specified for bail purposes will be returned after the trial.

Will you fail your imprisoned comrades?

Send in your bonds and money to us without delay.

THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2517 Fullerton Ave., Chicago Illinois.

(Co-operating with the Labor Defense Council.)

The Labor Herald

A Constructive, Militant Monthly
Labor Magazine

Edited by

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

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118 N. La Salle St. Chicago

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A reflection of the class struggle in the
Middle West in particular and the whole
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THOMAS O'FLAHERTY, Editor

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Innocent Young Workers In Michigan Jail Urge You to Get on the Job for Bail

Eugene Bechtold and Charles Erickson, members of the Young Workers League of America, are still in custody in the Berrien County, Michigan, jail as the result of the Burns-Daugherty red-hunting raid in which Wm. Z. Foster, Earl Browder, Wm. F. Dunn, and other labor militants were arrested.

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