

Out to the Smaller Industrial Towns

THE possibilities of building the Party and Young Communist League in the smaller industrial towns are tremendous. The workers in these towns depend on one or two industries or plants for work. Without organization, the bosses take advantage of this situation generally, and now especially because of the crisis. The workers are unable to move from place to place, for lack of funds. Therefore the workers in the shops have to accept wage cuts, not being organized; the unemployed are the victims of the most miserable charity.

In the smaller towns, the government bureaucracy is well

organized. It is one grant family, with the owners of the big mill ruling over it. The workers, on the other hand, know one another: true they do not know *all* the suckers and stool-pigeons who hold and control the jobs, and squeal on the workers when they show resentment against wage cuts. But there is a *spirit of solidarity* that is not so evident in larger cities where the workers can go to other plants and industries in search of work.

The workers are showing a splendid spirit of struggle. Endicott, owned outright by Endicott & Johnson, only recently witnessed a strike of 6,000 workers.

The manufacturers are following the policy of moving out of the bigger cities to the suburbs and small towns, where labor is plentiful and cheap.

The *war industries* are not concentrated in the big cities. On the contrary, they are scattered over the countryside, where the capitalists hope to obtain cheap, docile, unorganized labor. The war danger, therefore, alone demands that we penetrate the smaller towns, to build up unions, Unemployed Councils and the Party.

In the big cities we have a large percentage of Party and Y. C. L. members who are unemployed. The percentage of them who are engaged in active work unfortunately is not large. They must be *drafted for work* in the smaller towns. A single, live young comrade can build up organization, as experience has shown throughout the Party. This is not a task to be assigned at some future time: it is an *immediate task*, in view of the readiness of the workers to struggle, their willingness to organize, and the war danger.

The Districts must take this up as an *immediate task*. The building of the Party and revolutionary unions in the smaller industrial centers is an imperative task — just as fundamental as building the Party in the District centers. *The forces of the Party must be distributed, material assistance be given to the comrades sent out. But above all, the comrades sent out must be given political guidance.* The problems arising are of the greatest political importance, requiring a clear line. Comrades assigned to work in these towns are not always able to master them and they must be helped.

Finally, the comrades assigned must immediately get familiar with all the details of the situation in their town. Too often, they do not know nor do they make it their business to learn the facts of the situation. This means the selection of proper comrades—not such as will take a vacation, but comrades who recognize their *political responsibility* and be on the job. “Out to the smaller industrial towns” must become a vital slogan and plans must be worked out by the Districts to carry it out without delay.