

# LEGION 'CRUSADE' BOOSTS PARTY IN WILKES-BARRE

## Attacks Spur Workers To Join Party

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WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Mar. 13.—“The Workers Party received thousands of dollars worth of free advertising in the anthracite region due to the efforts of the American Legion, Rinaldo Cappellini and Mayor Hart, who is a close friend of Cappellini”—was the first statement I heard upon my arrival to this city from a miner who has no connections with the Workers Party.

The Wilkes-Barre Post of the Legion happens to be in bad need of members. There are more than 3,000 ex-service men in this city, but hardly 100 are members of the Legion, if the official reports are not exaggerated. The workers who “fought the war for democracy” can not be fooled into the petty bourgeois, reactionary Legion. The leaders of that organization apparently realize this and are thinking hard to find some “sensational” issue that would attract new members. A “crusade” against the Workers Party looked like a good recruiting issue but it was a failure.

### Anti-Red Meet A Fizzle.

The local press carried “sensational” news announcing a mass meeting of the Legion for the purpose of organizing a campaign against the Workers Party, but only 25 or 30 showed up, and among these there were several “reds” who just

dropped in to see what was going on. The chief speaker had to admit that ex-service men fail to support the organization and advised a drive for new members. The “crusade” against the “reds” was practically forgotten despite the fact that this was supposed to be the star attraction of the gathering.

At the same time that the Black Hundred of the local Legion is using all means at its disposal to prejudice the workers against the communists, Cappellini is doing his bit to incite to mob violence against the Workers Party. He has been issuing statements that it is the Workers Party, and not the operators, that is to be blamed for the labor troubles in the anthracite region. Our ex-progressive Cappellini, now, indirectly, joins hands with the operators in their claim that the strikes which break out from time to time are not justified, that operators are right and the miners are wrong, and Cappellini made these statements before the grievance committee had a chance even to investigate the causes that led up to the strike.

### Press Supports Cappellini.

The local capitalist press, in extensive editorials, gives its full approval to Cappellini and other miners' officials of District One “in their efforts to drive out the radical intruders” from the organization. Cappellini apparently forgets that the miners are very patient and that once they decide to strike it must be for cause. But Cappellini must find some excuse for the operators and the easiest way to do it is to make the Workers Party the goat.

But the attempt of Cappellini and the American Legion to prejudice the workers against the Workers Party and to incite them to mob violence against the “reds” is having the opposite effect. Since the “crusade” started many new members came into the Party and the existing Party units are busy in solidifying their ranks and perfecting their organization machinery.