

FOR THE UNITY OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

The Movement for Unity is Growing.

By A. L o z o v s k y.

Along with the intensification of the economic crisis there is growing up among the masses the will to unity. This will to unity is breaking through all reformist barriers and bears witness to the fact that the **Communist International**, the **Red Inter-**

national of Labour Unions and all organisations affiliated to them, have adopted in this question a correct line which has been justified by events. The last few weeks are especially rich in facts in this connection. It suffices to enumerate these facts when it becomes clear that we have before us an international phenomenon.

In Sweden there was recently held the Congress of the supporters of unity, at which communists, social democrats and non-party workers pronounced in favour of a united front for the class line both nationally and internationally. The Swedish social democracy and the leaders of the Swedish trade unions breeze fire and sword against this Conference. As, however, about a third of the trade union organised workers were represented at it, the social democratic attacks encountered serious resistance on the part of the masses.

In Czechoslovakia there was concluded on the 20th January the Congress of the revolutionary trade unions which pronounced in favour of carrying out the line of the Communist International and the Red International of Labour Unions in regard to unity. When one takes into consideration the divided condition of the Czechoslovakian trade union movement and its differentiation according to Parties, it is evident that this decision is of very great importance. This is all the more so as within the reformist trade unions, the Czechish as well as the Germans, and also within the Czechish national-socialist trade unions a very serious and growing Left wing is making its appearance. The Left tendencies in the reformist trade unions made themselves very evident at the recent parliamentary elections. The Communist Party has 104,000 members, while the Red Trade unions have 200,000 members, but the Party polled 1,000,000 votes. When one deducts from this figure a portion of the peasant votes, it becomes evident that a very considerable percentage of the workers who are in the reformist trade unions, voted for the Communist Party.

In Germany the Communist Party has succeeded in breaking through the social democratic front. The leaders of the reformist A. D. G. B. (Allgemeiner Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund - German General Federation of Trade Unions) who a few weeks ago had not even given a thought to the expropriation of property of the royal houses and was still less minded to enter into a united front with the Communist Party, were compelled as a result of the pressure of the masses, to agree to both. In the German trade unions a revolutionary wave is making its appearance, for the first time since 1923, based upon the united front.

Both in Germany and in Czechoslovakia a very great role is played by the workers delegations who have returned from Soviet Russia and who form crystallising points for all supporters of unity in the reformist organisations of the national and international labour movement.

In far-off Japan there has just taken place the Congress of the Left trade unions which had made its chief task to unite the divided trade union movement of Japan. The Japanese workers have become convinced by their experiences in struggle of the absolute necessity of a firmly welded, united organisation. The voices which were recently to be heard in Left circles of the Japanese trade union movement in favour of a split have become silent. All are for unity the opponents of which, as in Europe, are the reformists.

In France, this classic land of splits in the labour movement, there is growing within the reformist trade unions the will to unity and for the fighting solidarity of the workers. Although the reformist trade union federation (C. G. T.) and the professional unions affiliated to it, categorically reject the united front with the unitarian (revolutionary) trade unions, this united front is being established between the trade unions of the various tendencies in the different localities in the fight for improving economic conditions. Thus even in France, where extraordinary difficulties exist, where the organisatory split has to be overcome, the will to unity is forcing its way through all obstacles.

In England where the trade union movement is united, the fight for unity is assuming the form of a fight for the rallying of all forces and mobilising the masses for the great collision between capital and labour which is expected to break out in May 1926. The attempt of the English bourgeoisie to throttle the Communist Party and the Minority movement in the trade unions has had the exact opposite result: the government and the reformists are incapable of holding back the workers from joining the Minority Movement and the Conference of Action to be held

in March 1926 summoned by the Minority Movement for organising the defence against the attack of capital will show how great the sympathies of the masses have grown for the consistent class struggle.

In the Balkans, in Poland and in a whole number of similar police democracies the unity of the working class is being prevented by the savage attacks on the part of the police, by wholesale arrests and by the united front of the police and the reformists.

In far-off Australia the government and the reformist part of the Labour Party are occupying themselves with the terrible "Moscow danger", with the result that the first blow has been aimed at the trade union council of New South Wales, embracing 250,000 workers and which already in the year 1922 had affiliated to the Red International of Labour Unions.

One can review the remaining countries one after another and prove by a number of facts the close connection between the growing crisis and the fight for unity, between the intensification of the persecutions on account of the growing sympathy for unity and the growth of new forms for uniting the workers of various tendencies. All this shows that capitalism and international reformism have entered on a new phase in their downward developments, the chief features of which are: the ideological and political breaking away of broad masses from the second and the Amsterdam Internationals and the eager desire to organise a real class defence of their positions. The necessity for an effectively organised self-defence is compelling the members of all reformist organisations to join in a united front with the supporters of the Communist International and the R. I. L. U. But the most effective defence is the attack and therefore we are faced with a whole number of fights not only for defence but also for attack, in the fire of which the real brotherly solidarity and the unity of the national and international trade union movement will be forged.

IN THE COLONIES

Labour Struggles in Indonesia.

By P. Bergsma.

It is very interesting to hear from time to time from the bourgeoisie that all the Government measures for combating Communism have been of no avail. Something of this sort is said by the bourgeois Press which has always urged on the Government to take more forcible measures.

The sugar syndicate commanded that communists should be dismissed from all the factories. As soon as it becomes known that a worker is carrying on propaganda or sympathises with the communists, he is turned into the street. Other works propose doing the same.

In practice these measures will have disastrous results for the bourgeoisie. For, the more workers dismissed, the more strikes will break out and the more it will become evident that at least 90% of the workers sympathise with Communism.

A striking example of this is offered by the metal workers' strike in Soerabaya. In this town about 8000 metal workers are employed. They were all organised in small groups. This year all the groups have been united into one organisation and a movement started demanding higher wages. This of course met with resistance on the part of the capitalists, who proceeded to dismiss the leaders. The workers answered by a sympathetic strike. In the "Industry" engine-works they were immediately victorious.

The employers however continued their provocation. With the help of the judicial authorities, some of the leaders were arrested. The workers realised that their position was very much strengthened by the united front they had formed; they persisted in the strike. An ultimatum was issued to the employers demanding that they should agree to twenty different points by December 14th. As they did not comply with this demand, 2000 workers went on strike on that day; in a short time the strike extended to 3000 workers.

The bourgeoisie, having realised that no measures of force are of any avail, is attempting to harness the intellectuals of Indonesia to its chariot. It reproaches them with their passivity and reminds them that it is their duty to warn the workers of the "dangers" of Communism.