

EASTERN OHIO CONFERENCE OF YOUTH SUCCESS

Delegates Present from Most of Industries

By MAX SHACHTMAN.

BELLAIRE, Ohio, March 1 —Young delegates representing most of the important industries of Eastern Ohio gathered at the Bohemian Hall here to the first American Young Workers' conference to discuss their problems and draw up a program to outline the basis of their fight to improve their conditions.

The young delegates, who were elected by factory or mine meetings of young workers, came from mines, glass works, can factories, iron works and steel mills. Despite the terrorism and reaction which rules in this part of the country, the delegates present at the conference came from industries containing thousands of Eastern Ohio young workers.

Y. W. L. Report.

The conference got down to business right in the forenoon and elected its credentials committee under the chairmanship of Harvey Murphy. G. Papcun then reported on the economic conditions of the young workers in Eastern Ohio and pointed out that most of them were working for less than a subsistence minimum and living under obnoxious conditions.

The afternoon session was begun with a report by the fraternal representative of the Young Workers League, Max Shachtman, who spoke on the general situation of the working class youth in America and the job that confronted the conference. He pointed out that the drive of the capitalists to lower the wages and lengthen the working day of the workers affected the young workers most seriously, especially since they had practically no economic or political organization to fight back with. The danger of new wars which was going hand in hand with the campaign to pauperize the youth must be met by decisive action on the part of the young workers. He called upon them to rally the young workers of the rest of the district for the struggle against pauperization and against capitalist militarism, and showed that the Young Workers League was taking the lead in this work.

Low Wages of Youth.

The discussion that followed on the part of the delegates proved that the talk about pauperization was no mere phrase. One of the delegates from the Wheeling Can Co. told of the wages being given to the girls there: from 28 to 33 cents an hour, boys get-

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ting from 2 to 7 cents more. The sanitary conditions there were horrible and on top of all the speed up system had been introduced so that instead of lids being turned out at the rate of 95 they are now forced to turn them out at the rate of 125.

Another delegate from the enamel works in Bellaire told of the girls getting only 24 cents an hour, working some 50 hours a week thus making a total of the magnificent wage of \$12 a week. It was no wonder, therefore, that many of the girls are driven to lives of shame. In this plant, the sinks are so rusty that the girls cannot wash their hands before lunch because of the filthiness of the water.

Boys Work for Half Wages.

The young miners reported one instance after another of discrimination against the youth. Where young greasers and couplers, who were doing the work of men, received only \$4.00 a day, the men would get practically \$7.00 a day. Boys are often obliged to set posts at 7 cents each, a job which should be done by the day man who gets 7½ cents per post and can work swiftly enough to make a fairly decent wage—something which the inexperience of the boy prevents him from making.

Slate pickers and trappers are regularly discriminated against not only by the coal operators but also by the union, which provides for less wages for equal work in the contract with the bosses.

Story after story was told of the life of the young workers in industry and the buffeting from pillar to post between the capitalist who knows how to take advantage of the young workers, and the adult workers who are too shortsighted to see the harm which is being done to their whole class by their attitude of superiority and carelessness.

The resolutions committee of the conference introduced a number of resolutions. One resolution endorsed the labor party and called upon the trade unions to form one. A resolution was unanimously adopted endorsing the International Labor Defense and calling for the release of all the Moundsville prisoners. A resolution of demands for the young workers of Eastern Ohio, containing detailed points, was adopted and a motion accepted to have it printed in leaflet form for distribution to the young workers of the entire section.

Against Militarism.

A resolution against the Citizens Military Training Camps was passed with enthusiasm, after one of the delegates who had attended the camps last year, arose and pointed out its basically capitalist and anti-labor character.

A resolution which was also unanimously adopted called upon the Young Workers League to carry on further the work of rallying the young workers to the support of the conference program, and endorsing the Young Worker, official organ of the league, as the only paper which represented the real interests of the working class youth of the country.

The conference ended with enthusiasm, the delegates pledging themselves to return to their respective localities and work with greater energy than ever before for the carrying on of the work.