

ON THE WORKERS' FRONT

Rank and File Illinois Miners Ready for a New and Militant National Movement

(Continued from page 1) The foreign-born local and state leaders. This will convince many of those who doubt the present sincerity of the rank and file movement, for bitter opposition of this kind is not directed at fake movements. However, it must be pointed out that there is still a strong Lewis danger, caused by several leading individuals who have not aggressively attacked the Lewis gang and have been shielding it under the pretense of majority rule.

The appointive power was completely done away with. Every officer and every committee of the convention was elected from the floor. Ray Edmondson of Ziegler was elected president of the convention. William Keck of Belleville was elected secretary. Committees on Rules and Order, Resolutions, Constitution, Appeals and Grievances, etc., were elected. The convention was thrown into hot debate over the question whether to invite Walker and Lewis to appear before the convention. The difference of opinion did not center on the question of supporting either of these two fakers, but rather deviated to the minor argument of: (1) not being afraid to face the wreckers and to put them on trial before the convention, or (2) the argument against, that this was a rank and file convention and that those that the miners were opposed to had no place within the miners affairs.

The question of supporting the International union or not, came before the convention in a resolution form. This was the most important immediate matter to come up before the rank and file movement. Those in charge had launched a bitter fight against the district gang but they had failed to take a definite step against the international organization. The cry of unity was the unanimous opinion of the miners; since the "re-organized" U. M. W. A. vs "regular" U. M. W. A. fight, the miners of Illinois had been torn into two factions. These two factions never had any deep political disagreement, merely a personal fight. To see who was going to continue to rob the miners, was the real issue involved. However, the Illinois miners for a period of two years had foolishly let these misleaders split them into two hostile camps. Rows that ended in fierce fights and gunplay were often the case. Yet when pressure came about, the court injunctions subsided and the notorious compromise was enacted, leaving the miners of Illinois once more to bite the dust. The whole struggle has now culminated in a powerful rank and file movement. By decision of the convention, the miners of Illinois recorded themselves solidly against the International and district unions, calling upon the miners of Illinois to refrain from sending dues to these two branches of the organization, looking at the same time to the immediate possibility of calling a National Convention where the many different forces of the American coal miners may be amalgamated.

In the New York I.L.D. Sabotages Class Defense of Goodman and Morgenstern

Continued from page 1 I. L. D. in that connection. Our Philadelphia district was from the beginning willing to handle the case, and were reminded of their responsibilities in the matter, even though that was not necessary. "The facts as presented to us are that the two workers or their friends handled the case entirely apart from the I. L. D., and gave our organization no chance to take part in their defense. . . . "Internationally yours, "George Maurer "Assistant Secretary".

What happened between March 11, when Engdahl claimed that the I. L. D. had already "taken over the defense" and March 25, when it found out that it was given "no chance to take part in their defense"? Or even assuming the latter contention, which is absolutely absurd and false, did the I. L. D. stop its campaign for Sacco and Vanzetti because of the isolationist treachery of the defendants' spurious "friends" of the Boston Committee? Did the I. L. D. stop its movement for Mooney at the time when the reaction-controlled committee denounced the I. L. D. and the Communists? Of course not! And, we repeat, assuming that the Left Opposition would not give Engdahl and Maurer a "chance to take part" in the defense, can that explain or justify the treachery of the I. L. D. officials?

Organization Notes NEW YORK—With a new branch executive recently elected efforts are being made by the New York branch to systematize better its activities. One by one, a check-up is made on the individual member's work, such as each taking his place in a workers' mass organization and thus doing his part more effectively in the class struggle. Each member is also being required to take a certain amount of literature to dispose of. With the Militant appearing weekly, newstands are being solicited by the members to place the paper there for a period of time prior to them being enrolled in the regular list which is now supplied by the Militant branch agent. And, of course, on a whole this branch holds the record of most literature distributed.

Ban «Class Struggle»

Following the attacks by the Post Office authorities upon the Revolutionary Age, organ of the Lovestone group, the Spanish Communist paper, Vida Obrera, and the organ of the Young Communist League, Young Worker, in which they were barred from the second class mails, the most recent victim of the anti-Communist government attack has been the organ of the Weisbord group, the Class Struggle. In the last case, the authorities took refuge behind the petty pretext that the paper did not have a sufficient number of subscribers to warrant granting it second class mailing rights. The fact of the matter is, of course, that it was banned because it was a revolutionary working class paper and as a part of the general campaign—revived for the first time since the end of the war—against all the Communist press. The selection of the Communist press for the first victims of a new wave of Burlingtonism is not accidental but premeditated. The bourgeoisie aims to gag the mouth of the militant section of the working class as part of its task of strangling the labor movement as a whole.

Regardless of the fact that Weisbord's paper has since been suspended, it is imperative that the sharpest protest be raised everywhere against the high-handed despotism of the postal authorities who seek to re-establish in full bloom the regime of Burlington and Mitchell Palmer. The right of the labor movement to a free press, uncontrolled by the reactionary arbitrariness of the capitalist government, must be ardently defended. It is not the Communist press alone but the whole labor press which is involved—as was shown during the repressions of the world war. This danger must be met by a compact united front movement of all the organizations directly or indirectly involved. The failure of the party to initiate and organize such a movement has not only reacted to the disadvantage of the labor movement but has given the Right wing liquidators the opportunity to establish a spurious unity with discredited and anti-Communist elements for "freedom of the press".

Books by Leon Trotsky THE DRAFT PROGRAM OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL A Criticism of Fundamentals Introduction by J. P. Cannon 140 pages hard paper cover 35c THE STRATEGY OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION 86 pages, two-colored paper cover 25c Introduction by Max Shachtman THE SPANISH REVOLUTION 30 pages, paper cover 10c COMMUNISM AND SYNDICALISM The Trade Union Question Introduction by James P. Cannon 64 pages, paper cover 15c THE PERMANENT REVOLUTION 208 page book—cloth bound 1.00 paper bound .50 THE REAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA Introduction by Max Eastman 364 page book formerly \$2 now 1.00 MY LIFE—600 pages 5.00

THE EXPANSION PROGRAM CAMPAIGN

We are on the way to the realization of the third step in our Expansion Program—the second national conference of the League. There has been no slackening in support by the branches and by our supporters so far, and we do not look for any even if there may be some variation from week to week. Several comrades in various parts of the country have notified us that they will be present at the conference and we look forward to a real gathering in addition to the regular delegates. Of course, the best way to make sure that it will be so is to continue systematically step by step in the support of the financial aspect of this program.

THE MINNEAPOLIS BRANCH OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE (OPPOSITION) TO HOLD A PICNIC FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WEEKLY MILITANT SUNDAY, JULY 26th AT GLENWOOD PARK GROUND NUMBER No. 3 ALL WORKERS URGED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMME OF GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENTS. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED ON THE GROUNDS. THE SPEAKERS: C. E. HELLUND and V. R. DUNNE WILL DEAL WITH THE HOOVER DEBT PLAN AND THE WORLD CAPITALIST CRISES AND THE ROLL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PRESS. COME EARLY AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS. GROUNDS OPEN 11 A. M.

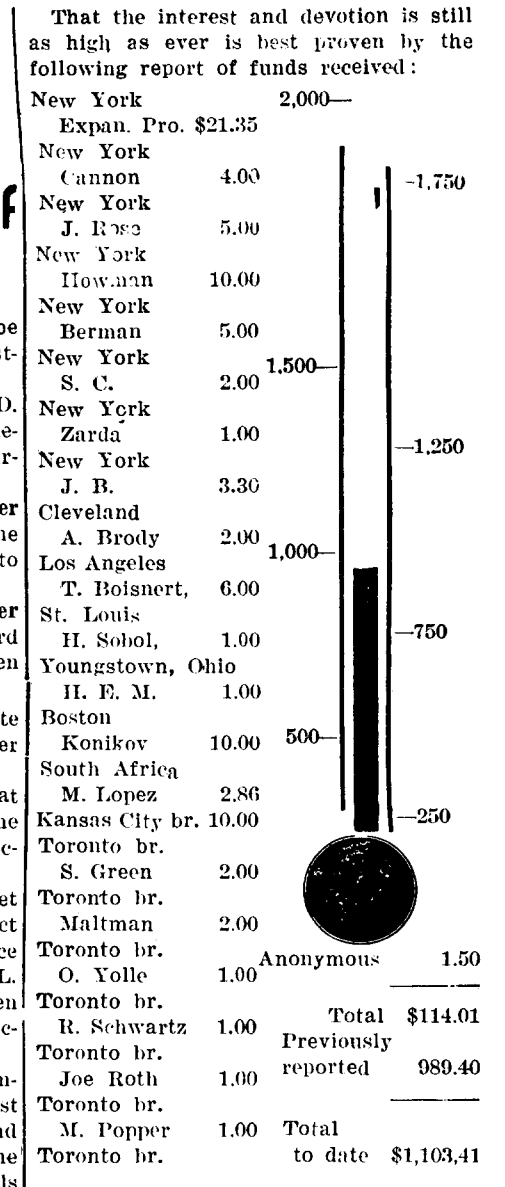
That the interest and devotion is still as high as ever is best proven by the following report of funds received: New York 2,000— Expan. Pro. \$21.35 New York Cannon 4.00 New York J. Ross 5.00 New York Howarth 10.00 New York Bertram 5.00 New York S. C. 2.00 New York Zarda 1.00 New York J. B. 3.30 Cleveland A. Brody 2.00 Los Angeles T. Bolnsert, 6.00 St. Louis H. Sobol, 1.00 Youngstown, Ohio H. E. M. 1.00 Boston Konikov 10.00 South Africa M. Lopez 2.86 Kansas City br. 10.00 Toronto br. S. Green 2.00 Toronto br. Maltman 2.00 Toronto br. O. Yelle 1.00 Toronto br. R. Schwartz 1.00 Toronto br. Joe Roth 1.00 Toronto br. M. Popper 1.00 Toronto br. Total to date \$114.01 Previously reported 989.40 Total \$1,103.41

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ST. LOUIS.—From this city we now have regular reports of active functioning of our small branch. A public meeting is being arranged at which comrade Oehler from Chicago will be the speaker. The branch started out by increasing its bundle sales of the weekly Militant. Comments from there as well as elsewhere on the weekly in its new form have been unanimously favorable and should speak well for the future.

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Books

- List of books for sale including 'The Draft Program of the Communist International', 'The Strategy of the World Revolution', 'The Spanish Revolution', etc., with prices and authors.

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