

North Side, English Branch, Chicago, Is Showing How to Make the Party Grow

By MARTIN ABBEN.

The North Side English branch of the Workers Party of Chicago employs methods, which though very simple, are yet very effective in keeping the members active, both within the branch and for getting new members. This branch will, we believe, be found near the top in obtaining new members for the Workers Party not only during the present concentrated drive for 10,000 new members for the Workers Party in the next three months, but all the year round.

One way that the North Side English branch uses to keep the members on the job is that of healthy competition. The branch organizer, Comrade Berglund, has had the branch divided into two teams as evenly balanced from the standpoint of enthusiasm, ability, willingness to work as is possible. A section of the town has been divided for the two teams and in turn these sections have been divided so that each member has a definite territory to cover.

In covering the territory, each comrade has in mind the work of obtaining new subscribers for the party papers. The Worker, Voice of Labor, The Young Worker, Labor Herald and others. Each comrade has also a list of prospective subscribers he must visit, or names of subscribers whose subscriptions have expired and whom he must try to get to renew the subscription. The member must cover every newspaper in his territory and endeavor to have the party papers placed on the stand. In the case of the Labor Herald, the comrades have been very successful in placing the magazine on the stands, and the sale of the Labor Herald has been well increased in the vicinity of the North Side English branch. But it is only a start and the comrades are confident of doing much better.

The comrades must undertake to visit the homes in their territory and to have discussions with the household on daily problems of the workers, the general aspects of the class struggle, and the activities and aims of the Workers Party. The comrades always go well supplied with leaflets, papers and other literature so that something can always be left for the prospect to read.

In order to stimulate an even greater vim, the organizer has arranged that the two teams shall contest for a period of months. Points are given to each team for various results. A subscription to the Labor Herald, The Worker, Young Worker, Voice of Labor, etc., counts 300 points; a subscription renewal, 150 points; placing a publication on the stands, 1,000 points; getting a new member, 3,000 points; 5 new members, 25,000 points; selling 10 Workers, Labor Herald, Young Worker, etc., 4,000 points; getting a worker to join a union 10,000 points, and so on. Certainly this kind of competition will and is bringing results.

Should some comrades be lax, the branch has arranged that there be a bi-monthly or quarterly examination of all the members. At this open quiz, the comrades are asked what new members they got to join the party, how many subscribers to party, T. U. E. L. and Y. W. L. publications, how many papers and magazines sold, have they themselves subscribed, have they joined the union, etc. In making, if necessary, explanations for delinquency, interesting statements are often made. For instance, one comrade when asked why she did not join her union, said that she was opposed to the American Federation of Labor. This resulted in a discussion of the party's trade union position—and the comrade joined the union. Comrades under examination of this sort are apt, sometimes, to be slightly discomfited, and to avoid future embarrassment, get busy and do some work for the party. Sometimes, the questioned comrade makes an excuse of some sort or other, perhaps in the matter of joining a union or subscribing to publications. If the branch deems the reason satisfactory, the comrade is excused; otherwise, he or she is ordered to comply with the requirements in a given period.

These means of intensifying the party activity and of increasing the membership are not new. The Socialist Party in past years has employed most of them with success and built up a strong organization in many places thereby. Nor are they

difficult; any member can carry out these effective and easy tasks. The North Side Branch is no different than other party branches. The difference is that this branch tries to do something and hence is succeeding. It is one branch that is not dull, be it a business or educational meeting, for either old or new members. The last branch meeting and educational one, at which the negro problem was discussed, was attended by over a hundred persons. The branch has about fifty members. A short organizational talk was made after the main talk and five listeners made application for membership. The business meetings are also alive; at the ends of the business, two members speak for five minutes on conditions of work in their place of labor, general discussion following. This is always interesting.

Let's hear from other party units how they MAKE THE PARTY GROW.

Tech Aid Active in Chicago.

Among the Chicago organizations working for the aid of Soviet Russia the Technical Aid Society keeps close to the top of the list. At present the Society has its headquarters at 1902 W. Division street where the entire second floor is devoted to the activities of the Society. There is a hall with about 300 seats fitted up with a modern stage for theatrical performances, concerts, etc., also small rooms for classes which are conducted by the school of the Society. Among other subjects there are classes for "foreigners" who wish to study the Russian language.

The winter activities of the Society commenced Sept. 25 with the opening of the classes. The official opening will be Saturday evening, Sept. 29, with a performance on the stage of the school. "Kasatka," by A. Tolstoy, will be presented by the Workers-Peasants Theatre, organized by the Society under the leadership of com. Luginoff, a well known Moscow actor who recently arrived from Russia.

A series of public lectures in the Russian language will begin Oct. 7. The first lecture will be on the Theoretical Basis of the Society for Tech Aid to U. S. S. R. Others will follow.

Get Action at Last.

VIENNA, Austria.—The Austrian government has signed an agreement with Mr. Levitsky, Russian plenipotentiary in Vienna, regarding the immediate handing over of the premises of the former Russian embassy, with all its property to the Russian mission.

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"Voice of

Beginning with the October 20th will become a four-page, half newspaper.

The first issue will be the "American Convention" number, dealing with the 5th convention at Portland, Oregon.

The October 5th issue will contain a scolding the Communist Movement in the United States of the United Mine Workers of America.

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The attack made by the Lewis machine gunners in the articles published in the last issue is shameless; the misrepresentation will be proven. There will be articles by Ruthenberg dealing with the Communist Party.

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