

Preparations for the Fifth Congress of the R. I. L. U.

By JAMES W. FORD.

THE Fifth Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions takes place in July, on the tenth anniversary of the R.I.L.U. Ten years of militant revolutionary leadership for the masses against the policy and practice of class peace and partnership with the capitalist class advocated by the reformist trade union bureaucracy—is of very great significance to the workers. But this is not the most important and decisive thing in connection with the convening of the Fifth Congress of the R.I.L.U.

Of this Fifth Congress we must ask ourselves very many vital questions of present day class struggles. What is the R.I.L.U. in this period of great class battles of the workers throughout the world? We must ask what does this new congress—this Fifth Congress of the R.I.L.U.—mean to the workers here in America? And then proceed to analyze our preparations for this congress on this basis.

It does not, however, take difficult theoretical discussions to answer these questions. The Fourth Congress of the R.I.L.U. (1928) said in no unmistakable terms that the working class is in the beginning of a period of great class battles of the workers against the capitalist bosses, that we will not only face the capitalist class on the streets and in the shops and factories but we must be prepared and expect also to meet their agents—the fascist trade union bureaucrats, and the social-reformists, who will shoulder to shoulder with the capitalists be found fighting against the workers, and that therefore our struggle must be

conducted equally against them as against the bosses.

It has become clear to every worker now that this prediction of the R.I.L.U. was correct. It is clear now that this was only a beginning of a period of struggle that has now grown to greater maturity. By actual instances what has this meant in America? What are the facts?

Gastonia.

The struggles at Gastonia were born at the beginning of this turn. Gastonia is a section of the country that opens up wider and wider masses of the American population for class battle. The struggle around Gastonia was one of the greatest battles ever put up by American workers against the capitalists of this country. Gastonia was an open battle and not a picnic, and was led by the Trade Union Unity League—the American section of the R.I.L.U. Then there were many other battles in the South—Marion, Elizabethton, Greenville and in other parts of the country (the Illinois miners strike that swept Southern Illinois, part of Indiana, etc.) were also fierce struggles that have been carried on by the workers in this period of intense class battles.

(To Be Continued.)

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