

The Young Communist International in the East

By N. FOKIN.

"It is absolutely clear that in the coming decisive conflicts of the World Revolution the movement of the majority of the population of the world, which will first be directed along the lines of national liberation, will be turned against capitalism and imperialism and will perhaps play a much greater revolutionary role than we may expect."

(Lenin, Collected Works, Vol.

XIX., p. 24, Russian Edition.)

The II. International and its imitator, the Young Socialist International, both of which are thoroughly imbued with bourgeois ideology, never appreciated and do not appreciate now the full importance of the colonial problem and the significance of the national revolutionary movement of the Eastern countries in the course of the world proletarian struggles.

The treacherous role of the II. International and the Young Socialist International are becoming clear now, when the expansion of the full-blooded United States of America and the restoration of the productive forces of the West European Imperialist countries have again raised in full scope the problem of markets and raw materials, i. e., the colonial problem. The leaders of the Socialist International (Vandervelde, MacDonald, Bauer, Renaudel) are the trumpets and defenders of the imperialist aspirations of the bourgeoisie. Now, when attempts are being made to solve the colonial problem by the "usual" imperialist methods accompanied by intensive armaments, clashing of sabres, open intervention (China, U. S. S. R., Latin America, etc.), which constitutes an inevitable menace of new world wars, to refrain from an energetic revolutionary struggle against the imperialist policies of one's own government means to be an open advocate of the bourgeoisie. Not to act openly by mobilizing the proletarian masses in support of the revolutionary movement in the East, which paralyzes the temporary stabilization and menaces the very foundations of the capitalist order, means to abandon the struggle for Socialism. Such is actually the policy of the Socialist Youth International.

Whereas the Young Communist International organizes the revolutionary movement of the youth of Europe, America, the colonial and semi-colonial countries, giving them organizational and moral support, the Socialist Youth International, under the cover of pacifist phrases, maintains silence in its daily agitation propaganda regarding the questions of anti-imperialist struggle and support to the nations of Asia and Africa in their struggle against imperialism. By doing so it demonstrates the national limitation of its sections and thus becomes objectively the troubadour of imperialism. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Socialist Youth International has not a single section in the East. In contradistinction to the Socialist Youth International, the Y. C. I. is not merely a "European International," but a real international organization representing the young proletariat of the West as well as the revolutionary proletarians and semi-proletarians of the colonial and semi-colonial countries of Asia, Africa and America.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Young Socialist International, and the eighth anniversary of the foundation of the Y. C. I., there is not a single Eastern country without the Y. C. I. fighting detachments and where thousands of young revolutionaries do not rally to its banner.

If no one knows of the existence of the Y. C. I. or knows only from the experience of the imperialist activities of its leaders of the type of Vandervelde, MacDonald, Renaudel, etc., whom the Chinese coolies, the slaves of the Congo, the fellaheens of Egypt, the bedouins of Morocco, recall with curses and with gnashing of teeth, the Y. C. I. is hailed and greeted in the struggle for life and death of the young revolutionaries of the East.

The Indian terrorist student groups who shed their blood in the struggles of the country, send their representatives to the Y. C. I. with a request "to teach them how to fight successfully against their oppressors."

The revolutionary students of China advanced at their congress, the question of the ideological leadership of the Y. C. I. in the student movement, condemning their policy of the II. International in respect of China. In the remote villages, situated thousands of miles away from the industrial and cultural centres of China, the student propagandists write on the walls, the survivals of medieval feudalism, whole chapters of Lenin's works on Imperialism and conclude with the slogans of the Comintern and the Y. C. I.

The Young Revolutionaries of Egypt make inquiries of the Y. C. I. as to the forms of the revolutionary movement in the East.

The slaves of the rubber plantations of Nigeria sent a letter to the Y. C. I., literally written in blood, about the inhuman conditions of labor and ask the question "What should we do; how can we become free?"

The Japanese student Nanba, a descendant of an aristocratic family, the son of a member of the House of

Peers, not a Communist, not a Y. C. Leaguer, standing apart from the labor movement, "thinks of assassination" of the Prince Regent, the reactionary figure of Japanese society, and on being sentenced to death he cries out "Long live Communism, long live the III. International."

What are the results for the Y. C. I. on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Young Socialist International?

In striking the balance, the absence of any kind of Socialist or Communist Youth organizations in the eastern countries up to 1919-20, the weakness of the labor movement, the absence of traditions of revolutionary struggle, the repressions of the native and imperialist governments, must be borne in mind. Nevertheless, in spite of all obstacles, the Y. C. I. has 60,000 members in its Eastern sections and its organizational and political influence spreads over hundreds of thousands of young organized workers, peasants and students.

China. The Y. C. L. of China was founded in 1920 in the form of a Young Socialist League, and consisted of all Left Socialists and Anarcho-Syndicalist elements and the Left wing of the students' movement. The different tendencies in the organization hindered its work, and in 1921 it was reorganized into a Communist League expelling the phrase-mongers and anarcho-syndicalists with their petty-bourgeois revolutionary ideas. By January 1, 1926, there were 4,000 members in the ranks of the Chinese Y. C. L. and on May 1st, 1927 there were already 42,000 members. Owing to the severe persecutions inflicted upon the revolutionary workers' and peasants' organizations by the Chinese Cavaignacs, Chiang Kai-shek, Lee Ti-sin, Sei Du-in, Tang Shen-chi and others, the membership of the Y. C. L. has now been reduced to 31,000. The League has lately lost hundreds of comrades in the struggle against the counter-revolutionary militarists. Thus, in the Yuchow district alone, over 200 Y. C. Leaguers and Pioneers were shot; in Changsha, about 1,000 Y. C. Leaguers have been arrested. The same is the case in Shanghai and Kwantung. In dealing with the growth of the Communist movement in China, it must be pointed out that side by side with the Y. C. L. there is also a Young Comrade organization with 120,000 members, 80% of whom are young workers and peasants, 40-50% of whom are old enough to be members of the Y. C. L. (15-18 years of age). Insofar as the Y. C. L. of China has grown out of the Left student movement which was one of the most vital elements in the social life of China at the initial stages of the national liberation movement, the Y. C. L. reflected this fact in its social composition. Thus prior to May 30, 1925, 80% of the Y. C. L. membership consisted of students and 20% of young workers. The strike wave and the Shanghai events of 1925, which brought the working-class into the arena of the general Chinese struggle, also affected the social composition of the League in the sense that it increased the proletarian membership to 30%. The new surge of the revolutionary movement of China in 1926-27, which was accompanied by the expansion of the labor and peas-

ant movement and the struggle of the proletariat for a leading role in the revolution, resulted in the increase of the proletarian elements in the Y. C. L. to 42% and a decline of the students of 41%. The ideological influence of the Y. C. L. is 10 times greater than its organizational strength. Almost half of the revolutionary wing of the students' movement, having 450-500 local organizations and embracing several hundreds of thousands of students, is under the ideological and organizational leadership of the Y. C. L., which enables it to extend its influence over the broad masses of the petty-bourgeois urban democracy. The active struggle of the Chinese Y. C. L. for a revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the working class and the urban poor, for the agrarian revolution, for the social and democratic transformation of China, the relentless criticism of the opportunist leaders converts the Y. C. L. into one of the most capable fighting political organizations of China, in spite of the severe suppression of the bourgeoisie and the militarist reactionaries.

Japan. The Y. C. L. of Japan was founded at the beginning of 1923 by a group of Communists and Left wing trade union leaders. The Y. C. L. did not have much experience or preparation in technical underground work. It likewise did not sufficiently realize the aims and tasks of the youth movement and bore a narrow sectarian character, most of its work consisting of propaganda. The reaction which followed the earthquake resulted in the break-up of the Communist Party and the Y. C. L. It snatched the most talented comrades out of their ranks such as Kawai, Katashima, Emanici and others. The Party was dissolved and the Y. C. L. followed suit. In January 1925, the Y. C. L. again organized and became very active among the masses of young workers. It advanced the slogan of creating an independent class proletarian youth league and worked out a concrete program of action and demands of young workers. In September 1925, the Japanese Y. C. L. for the first time celebrated International Youth Day, which produced a vigorous response from among the workers. The intensive activities of the Y. C. Leagues attracted the attention of the police, who endeavored to seize the most active organizers. All activities of the Y. C. L. proceed under the severest police supervision and absolutely illegally. Based on the young and disintegrated labor movement, the Y. C. L. of Japan, together with the proletarian youth league, organized in November 1925 by active trade union Left elements, have in their ranks over 4,000 members. They constitute the largest organization of young proletarians. If we take into consideration that only 175,000 workers out of a total of 5 million are organized and that the organizations are split into 440 bodies, this figure is quite considerable. The struggle of the Japanese Y. C. L. at the present time against feudal survivals, militarism and the putrid Japanese bourgeoisie whilst there is an upward surge in workers and peasants' movement, is no longer menaced by complete annihilation and has chances of further successful development.

PARTY ACTIVITY TAKING GREAT STRIDES FORWARD AMONG WORKERS OF DISTRICT NO. 5, DELEGATE TELLS

William White, delegate from District No. 5 to the Fifth Party Convention of the Workers (Communist) Party now being held in New York City, reports that in spite of immense handicaps the work of the Party in District No. 5 is progressing better than ever before in its history.

Meets Obstacles.

District No. 5 which includes the great Pittsburgh steel mines and large bituminous coal regions has had to meet and overcome obstacles such as few other districts have faced.

The conditions among the mass of workers are, at present extremely bad, especially in the soft coal industry. The prolonged strike has sapped the resources of the workers and while they are fighting and have shown a consistent militant spirit in the face of the terrorism of the mine companies, they have not the leadership which is fitted to carry on the struggle.

Nuclei Progressing.

The Workers Party, however, has been especially successful in the work of organizing nuclei among the soft coal miners. The Party possesses at present a number of nuclei in the mine fields which are functioning at maximum and are succeeding in rallying the masses of the miners around the Party on a number of issues.

One difficulty here as elsewhere consists in breaking down the racial differences which keep the miners from organizing effectively and which the bosses foster for that purpose. The Party is gradually and successfully accomplishing this task.

The condition in the steel industry is not so satisfactory. In that industry the Party has not only to confront the difficulty inherent in organizing the racially differentiated groups, but it must also combat the most effective industrial espionage system ever perfected in the United States. The steel mills are honey-combed with spies, and the steel companies have

spent millions in such work, and the Party's activity in organizing nuclei among the steel mills is greatly hampered by the terrorism which the company stool-pigeon system enforces.

The Workers Party in District No. 5 is also accomplishing very concrete achievements in the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, an organization of about 10,000 workers, and the only one in the industry. The great mass of the steel workers are totally unorganized.

Class Collaboration in Union.

This union, thru the class collaboration policies of its leadership is gradually losing whatever influence it may have had.

White quotes the leader of the Amalgamated, M. F. Tighe, as saying that the union had no fighting policy. "My business," Tighe said, "is to bring about the collaboration of the bosses and the workers." Thru a consistent policy of sealing the Amalgamated conventions to all newspapermen and permitting no information concerning the proceedings to trickle thru the union is slowly and surely dying of dry rot. Only a strong, vital force working from within can save it.

Fractional Tasks.

The task of revitalizing the Amalgamated is one for our Party, in White's opinion. The Party in District No. 5 already possesses a fraction in the Amalgamated and every effort is being made to push the activity of this group. The greatest obstacle with which the Party is here confronted, White declares, is the dearth of capable organizers. This holds true for all branches of industry in which the Party is working in District No. 5.

The activity of the Party in behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti aroused thousands of workers thruout the District and it is believed that we have not even begun to reap the fruits of our