

The WORKERS' WORLD

Official Organ Socialist Party of Kansas City
Endorsed by Local Omaha, Socialist Party

Vol. 1. No. 27.

KANSAS CITY, MO., FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 1919.

Application made for entry as Second Class Matter at Post Office at Kansas City, Mo. Price, 5 Cents

I. W. W. TO TRIAL DEC. 1.

Judge Pollock's Commission finds Wichita Jail "Unfit for Human Habitation"

(By Ella Reeve Bloor).

One of the most bitterly fought skirmishes of the Class War came off in the Wichita Federal Court Building last week.

The opposing forces were generated by Fred Robertson and Col. Amidon, while Fred Moore, John H. Atwood, his partner, Mr. Popham, and Caroline Lowe defended labor's side of the battle.

The real object of this skirmish was to secure the quashing of the third indictment against the 33 members of the I. W. W. who have been held twenty-two months in jail without yet being tried.

Mr. Atwood and Fred Moore made a brilliant legal appeal, answering Col. Amidon's arguments at every point. Amidon contended that this case was similar to the case of Dr. Elizabeth Baer and Schenck case, members of the Socialist Party in Philadelphia; which had been decided by the Supreme Court adversely. In this case literature against conscription was found which he, Amidon, considered conservative compared to the I. W. W. literature in this case.

(It might be stated right here that both Baer and Schenck were sentenced to only three months in jail and are now free.)

Quotes From Literature.

Amidon quoted one phrase from the literature he considered so damaging, viz., the phrase, "cunning politicians and mercenary capitalists," adding "this seems to be a favorite expression with the defendants." He also indicated that he considered one of the oft mentioned "overt acts" to be the song "To Fan the Flames of Discontent." He dwelt for some moments on this theme. He further contended that a conspiracy to violate the law is all one conspiracy although many laws violated by such conspiracy, and although the law against conscription and the Espionage laws were not yet enacted, when these alleged overt acts were committed, the conspiracy "anticipated conscription," and were therefore criminal in intent. He then launched into a description of the "intentions" of the defendants by reading part of the Declaration of Principles of the I. W. W. and said "this is binding and sacred to them and is to them what the Declaration of Independence is to Americans." As he read some of the passages in a loud voice, it seemed as if the crowded court room thrilled with sympathy and if it had been a lecture hall there would have been instant applause.

"The working class and the employing class have nothing in common," and their purpose in organizing is the "abolition of wage slavery." Think of it! What a criminal intent!

"Industrial Organization—Treason."

Col. Amidon also pointed out that the I. W. W. despise the A. F. of L. as much as they do the employing class. (another crime?). "By organizing industrially within the shell of the old system to break it down," "these purposes constitute treason," and then the prosecution launched into the old capitalist attack of burning wheat fields, throwing the pitchfork into the machinery, using the wooden shoe "on the job." By these few remarks taken from Col. Amidon's pleading, it is easy to see that the legal points were lightly touched and an appeal was made all along the line to prejudice, to resurrect war hatreds, and to throw upon the entire organization the charges of treason and disloyalty.

Not much can be said about Robertson's plea, as he ran absolutely true to form and those who know him will understand what that means.

At one point he became absolutely intoxicated with his own oratory, and rolling his eyes upward brought forth these words, "driving a dagger into the very heart of America." It is presumed he meant the defendants, but an outsider might have thought he meant the Standard Oil Trust which has committed so many crimes on American democracy by its "One Big Union." "Why, the statistics show that this war could not have been prosecuted without gas or oil" was another classic outburst. His "oratory" continued so long that Col. Amidon seemed quite uneasy.

Moore's Masterly Appeal.

Fred Moore's argument was a masterly one, not only from the human

standpoint, but on every count of the indictment he argued from the strictly legal basis. He showed that all the cases cited had been different, showed that no overt acts had been charged, and further argued on the "conspiracy" charged before the enactment; he said, "if as counsel intimated any discussion of contemplated legislation, 'anticipated conscription,' the threat implied would be that any one criticizing such 'contemplated legislation' would make any one subject to arrest for conspiracy."

Both Mr. Moore and Mr. Atwood with Miss Lowe and Mr. Popham made a deep impression with their moral and legal defense and although Judge Pollock denied the demurrer, he indicated that when the case came to trial there would be some charges that would not be pressed by the "Courts Intervention."

"Jail Unfit For Human Beings."

Immediately after Judge Pollock's decision was given the report of the Investigating Committee appointed to investigate the Wichita jail was read as follows:

"We, the undersigned members of the committee appointed by this honorable court to make inspection and inquiry as to whether the Sedgwick county jail is a fit and suitable place in which prisoners awaiting trial should be confined, beg leave to report that on this twenty-third day of September, 1919, in pursuance of the authority of the order of this court, we respectively visited said jail in the City of Wichita, Kans., and report the following facts in regard to the condition of the premises.

"First—we find that the jail building itself is an old jail having been built some 25 or 30 years ago. That the eastern portion of it, known as the rotary cells, has been abandoned and is not at the present used for the confinement of prisoners.

"Second—That the plumbing in said jail is obsolete and in a dangerous condition and a constant menace to the health of prisoners there confined. That the roof of that part of the jail in which prisoners are confined leaks, and is out of repair. That the cells in which prisoners are confined are not overcrowded, being two prisoners to each cell.

"Third—That the prisoners have recently been furnished new mattresses and there is no particular complaint in regard to their bedding, except the cells are infested with bed bugs and bear traces of their having been there for an indefinite period of time. We were advised disinfectants are used throughout the premises, although we saw no evidence of the use of them.

"It appears to this committee, from the appearances as we saw them generally throughout portions of the jail in which prisoners are confined, that no proper or systematic effort has ever been made or enforced for keeping the interior of the jail in a cleanly and sanitary condition. By that we mean that the interior of the jail does not appear to have been painted since it was built, which has been a period of at least 25 years. We are impressed with the idea that conditions of the jail have been absolutely neglected by the county authorities, whereas, by a

very moderate expense it could have been kept cleanly and sanitary.

"Fourth—The records of the jail do not show there ever has been an epidemic, or contagion or general condition of sickness in the jail. Under present conditions at said jail it is not a fit or suitable place in which persons awaiting trial should be confined.

"All of which we respectfully submit.

Charles Blood Smith,
H. C. Sluss,
S. C. Bloss."

Then Judge Pollock said, "these defendants are 'human beings' and I must have them removed at once, and we will set the trial for another time and place," so it was decided to hold the trial in Kansas City, Kansas, December 1st.

A Visit With the Boys.

I went to this much condemned jail to see "our boys" and in all my years of service in the bitter class war I have never felt such a raging rebellion against the inhuman capitalist system, as when these manly, intelligent, unselfish young men crowded around me, eager to hear about the trial, and I realized that most of them had already spent months in this horrible dungeon, and others almost if not quite as bad because they were too good Americans to submit to slavery. If I felt this raging rebellion against such a hypocritical unconstitutional system, how must the men feel who have to lie in jail day by day, yielding up their youth and their human loves and their very life. It would be well for us to remember that there are thousands of such outrages being committed upon our workers all over the United States today, and our "Kai-

sers and Czars" of the Steel Trust and Oil Trust are drunk with their power. From the jails and prisons the "boys" are sending out just one message "SOLIDARITY."

Side Lights on the Battle at Wichita

The prisoners still held without bail were sent back to the jails where they had been at the time of the trial. Most of them have gone to Leavenworth; Sapper, Stark and Barr to Ottawa, and Phineas Eastman and Snell to Kansas City, Kansas. The entire town of Wichita seemed to regret the change of venue, evidently they had anticipated something to excite them in their prosaic lives. The "Eagle" screamed about the change using these words, "Unsanitary Jail loses City Money." "As there are one hundred thirty-five witnesses in the I. W. W. case alone, Wichita will lose financially by the removal of the Federal Court from this City."

Another "side-light" of the convention was the fact that about one hundred secret service men, and Pinkerton sleuths filled the court room and prowled around the streets of the city. Two of our boys, Jack Walberg and McCurl were held up on the street and their pockets searched by two of these over-zealous servants of the Trusts.

A Socialist by the name of Joe Otti was arrested and kept in jail all night, incommunicado on suspicion of being an I. W. W. because he had been seen talking to them in the court room. After Caroline Lowe read about it in the paper the following morning, she hastened to the Chief of Police and finally got him released.

Steel Strikers Face Tremendous Odds

PITTSBURGH.—As the gigantic contest between capital and labor, involved in the steel strike, proceeds from day to day, one thing is absolutely clear: every power outside that of labor is united to crush the attempt of the steel workers to better their conditions through collective bargaining.

The money kings were the first to speak: J. Pierpont Morgan sounded the keynote for them when he congratulated Judge Gary upon his part in the struggle.

Next followed the political kings and kinglets. Governor Sproul of Pennsylvania has unqualifiedly arranged himself on the side of capitalism by upholding the terrorism of the state cossacks in forbidding the holding of public meetings in certain sections of Pennsylvania. Governor Smith of New York has assigned state troopers to patrol the plants of the Lackawanna Company. State cossacks have mercilessly ridden into gatherings of strikers in Pittsburgh, Natona, McKeesport, Clairton, Homestead and elsewhere, and already a number of deaths have resulted.

The capitalist press is almost a unit in condemning the strikers. Samuel Gompers is pleadingly appealed to by them to force the workers to return to work.

Meanwhile the workers are coming out in far greater numbers than estimates of the steel barons gave them credit for. William Z. Foster, secretary-treasurer of the national strike committee, estimated that by September 25 some 345,000 men were out. "The steel industry is tied up," he said.

Based on reports received at the national headquarters in Pittsburgh, the situation on September 25 is as follows:

1. The strike is successful beyond all expectation.
2. Its extent is sufficient to create a national emergency; all industry, particularly transportation, will be affected immediately.
3. The prospect of an investigation by a committee of the United States senators is welcomed in view of the crisis precipitated by the refusal of Judge Gary, head of the steel trust, to negotiate with the labor forces.

The attacks upon strikers in the Monongahela Valley, where the most important steel centers are located, by the state constabulary are so outrageous and the killings of organizers so frequent that the committee will welcome the investigation if it comes to Pittsburgh.

4. The railroad men and miners are ready to join forces with the steel workers whenever necessary.

5. Independent concerns asking for settlements will be given terms based on local wage standards and the 12 general demands. Here are the twelve demands of the steel workers:

- Right of collective bargaining.
- Reinstatement of men discharged for union activities.
- An eight-hour day.
- One day's rest in seven.
- Abolition of the twenty-four-hour shift.
- Increase in wages sufficient to guarantee American standard of living.
- Standard scales of wages in all trades and classifications of workers.
- Double rate of pay for all overtime, holidays and Sunday work.
- Check-off system of collecting union dues and assessments.
- Principles of seniority to apply in maintenance, reduction and increase of working forces.
- Abolition of company unions.
- Abolition of physical examination of applicants for employment.

NO GUNS FOR KOLCHAK

Seattle Longshoremen Refuse to Handle any more Supplies for the Counter-Revolution

Seattle, Sept. 27.—Refusing to be a party to the imperialistic murderfest now being conducted in Siberia and other Russian points, the International Longshoremen's Association, Local 38-12 called twelve men from Pier 5 on Thursday morning when it was discovered that the cases they were unloading contained rifles for the counter-revolutionary forces of Admiral Kolchak. The material was consigned through the firm of Frank Waterhouse & Company for Vladivostok. Longshoremen declare that the shipment was to be made on the Marho Maru, a Japanese freighter, and the United States Shipping Board's steel steamer Delight. Forty-five carloads of rifles, machine guns and ammunition are reliably reported to be on their way to Seattle. With the exception of two cars unloaded before the nature of the contents were discovered, the shipment has been shunted onto the railroad siding at the Meadows. Action will be asked of the railroad workers to prevent further handling of the instruments of murder in the private war now being conducted against Russia's Soviet government.

Endorsed By Central Body.

Following action by the Central Labor Council endorsing the anticipated refusal to handle munitions the I. L. A. has announced that a heavy fine will be placed on any member who aids in transporting such goods and the members name be stricken from the work list for two months.

The Waterhouse Company—leading firm of the newly formed Associated Industries—announces that it now refuses to be a party to handling any further munition shipments for Russia. The company cannot be praised too highly for this action which has been forced upon it by the revolutionary longshoremen.

Every worker in Seattle must now stand behind the men on the waterfront and be ready to strike at a moments notice in case the murder material is handled by scabs.

At last Wednesday night's session of the Seattle Central Labor Council, the Seattle Labor Movement was officially notified by the Longshoremen's Association that organization which enjoys a closed shop on the waterfront, would not load rifles or ammunition for Russia or Siberia. They have notified the Employers' Association to that effect and have asked the co-operation of the Railroad Switchmen. The Central Labor Council by a unanimous vote amid rousing cheers decided to back the Longshoremen in this stand.

Will See It Through.

Speaking on the question, Percy May, Business Agent of the Longshoremen said, "If we get into a mix-up over this, it is for the good of the

world-wide labor movement, and we are going to see the thing through to a finish." He further stated that the Longshoremen had thoroughly discussed the question from every angle before taking any action and that their present decision was the result of a full deliberation of the matter. The Longshoremen, it seems, have gotten wind of a shipment of 17 carloads of rifles to Seattle en route to Siberia, and officials of the organization will, it was indicated, inspect all suspicious looking boxes very carefully before loading. As the organization has a closed shop it will indeed be very difficult for the Chamber of Commerce to load munitions for use against the Russian Republic. Seattle leads the way, now it is up to labor in other cities to take similar action.

Minor Meeting Suppressed

A meeting for Robert Minor, scheduled to be held at Daniels Hall, Packard and Kansas Avenues, on the Kansas side Sunday night was stopped by a squad of policemen who refused to allow the hall to be opened. The subject on which Minor is speaking, "The Truth About Russia and Germany," is not going to be heard in Kansas City, Kansas, according to the chief of police, W. W. Gordon.

Since his arrival in San Francisco last month, Minor has been speaking in practically all of the large cities of the country on his trip from coast to coast. It is in perfect harmony with recent exposures of political corruption in the "fair" state of Kansas, that it should be the first state to attempt to suppress his message straight from the free working class Republic across the sea. It is the State of Kansas that has set the record of "cruel and inhuman treatment" by confining over a score of workingmen for 22 months, without trial, in jails which Judge Pollock's commission reported to be "unfit for human habitation." Drunk with power, secure, apparently, in the backing of the Beef and Oil trusts, the peanut politicians of the State of Kansas are going to extremes of Prussianism such as the realm of the late Kaiser never knew.

This outrage last Sunday night is but one of many of a similar nature. But a week ago a meeting conducted by the Communist Party was broken up and the speaker arrested. Several workers of the Russian Branch have been arrested and held for deportation for distributing the Workers' World in the Packing Houses. For the packing houses are the real seat of Government in Kansas City, Kansas, and any offense against their dominance over the workers brings the errand boys at the City Hall into action on the side of their masters.

Perhaps this state of affairs will be looked into by the organized packing house workers. They have the power to compel the police department to keep hands off working class meetings whenever they have the will to do so. The fact that an officer of the union was to have been chairman of the Minor meeting may stimulate some action looking to a restoration of the constitutional rights of free speech and assemblage. It is not the function of the union to fight for economic advantage, alone, but to uphold political rights through the exercise of economic action.

In Slavery

Chattel slavery at one time covered the civilized world and parts of the world just coming into civilization. Master and slave were the prominent figures of industry. The one owned the other; the one was a man, the other property; the one could enforce any extent of toil and drive to any degree of degradation, the other had nothing to do but submit or die. And all the forces of government were arrayed on the side of the one and against the other; in fact, the masters were the government.

For four thousand years most of the work of the world was done by slaves, and what made it all the more galling was the fact that many of the slaves were superior, mentally and morally, to their masters. Frequently poets and artists and philosophers were required to perform the most exhausting toil or degrading personal services for people whose lives were devoted to crushing and killing and grossest dissipation. The slave was considered to have lost all his rights with the passing of his freedom. Virtue, no matter how great, was in constant peril, and women were often forced into lives unspeakable by men whom the fortunes of war had made the masters of every function of their bodies and every moment of their lives.

Chattel slavery was deeply entrenched. There were some who thought it divinely ordained, and these gave to it the divine attribute of immortality. But it passed. Its mission discharged, it was obsolete—for it had a mission in spite of its infamy. Chattel slavery implanted in man the industrial habit, the ability to conceive of tasks to be performed, and the will to perform them. Chattel slavery passed, not so much because of any moral movement against it, as because the wage system came next in the course of progress, offered opportunity for more intense exploitation of labor, and was more in accordance with the age of invention just opening. Slaves do not improve the processes of production, at least so long as they think that they are slaves.

Chattel slavery passed, but slavery exists today—wage slavery. The means of producing the means of life are owned by a few, and the many can only use these on terms made by the owners. The many must use the means of producing the means of life in order to live. Hence they cannot live except by consent of the few.

What is this but slavery? Chains need not be visible to be a dread reality. The whip of want may be no less pitiless than the lash that scarred that back of the black chattel slave.

Slavery exists today—a slavery of mind as well as body. The workers are the slaves of ideas that are their undoing. They are trusting and confident and bow their necks with thanksgiving to the yoke. They are content, when they should be anything but content. They think they are free, when they are about as free as a bug in a corked bottle. They think they are the salt of the earth because pie-hunting politicians flatter them and shake their hands, then when they have put these fellows in power, these very same politicians make laws for the masters and send soldiers to shoot the workers full of holes if the workers wake up enough

to go on strike.

Slavery must end. Labor must own the means of the life of Labor. Labor, the creator of all wealth, must possess it and enjoy it.

So must preachers preach, or be exposed as preachers of Mammon.

So must editors write, or be held up as intellectual prostitutes.

So must labor leaders declare, or resign their leadership.

So must political parties point out in their platforms and so pledge their candidates, or pass out of existence forever.

Intelligent Labor has spoken, and its WILL is law!

—Edward Rutledge.

Thinks and Thinkings

(By John Dequer.)

We had a Miners' Convention here. The only inspiring fact about it was the hair on the acting president's head.

The Miners are a fine lot of men, and they are governed by an efficient machine. The machine is well oiled and runs almost smoothly. There is a jarring note heard now and then and these occasional discords are the signs that presage a storm.

The Illinois delegates who had had the temerity to question the right of the officials to bludgeon the workers who were in a starving condition, into submission to the rules of the machine were kicked out of the convention after an eloquent and highly legalistic but entirely inhuman address by the acting president. It proved that the workers fall for the merely verbalistic bunk. The trial that lasted two days was a beautiful example of the ever present struggle between the needs of life and the unyielding character of government.

Nothing radical is tolerated in the Miners organization. "We can not afford to dream," says President Lewis. He is too well fed to dream. With a salary of \$5,000 a year he don't need to dream reality may be made sweet.

They tabled the League of Nations after a speech by an Irish patriot. I do not know the meaning of this.

They declared for six hour day and the five day week. The machine did not oppose this for the reason that it will give more miners jobs that will bring in more dues, that will make fatter and more salaries.

There is a perfectly peaceable steel strike in this city. It falls short of what Mother Jones predicted, nevertheless it is a strike. There is nothing more to say. We might call it embryonic action. That is, something may result from it. But what? No one can tell.

FREEDOM.

Is true Freedom but to break Fetters for our own dear sake, And, with leathern heart, forget That we owe mankind a debt? No! true Freedom is to share All the chains our brothers wear, And, with heart and hand, to be Earnest to make others free.

Organization News

ORGANIZATION NEWS.

In this department each week the news of the rapidly growing organization of the Communist Labor Party will be featured. Local secretaries and others desiring information or assistance in the work of effecting local organizations should communicate with J. P. Cannon, District Secretary, Box 697, Kansas City, Missouri.

LOCAL ORGANIZED AT GROSS.

The honor of forming the first local of the Communist Labor Party in the state goes to the comrades at Gross, Kansas, where a local was formed Sunday with 24 charter members. I went to speak there on Saturday for the Workers' World and the miners asked me to stay over Sunday and help get the new local started.

We held both meetings in the moving picture house owned by Comrade Obitz. Saturday is his big night for "movies," so at first we had Douglass Fairbanks and Billy West. There were crowds of children and tired mothers, so we couldn't hold a very long meeting after so many pictures. But on Sunday afternoon we had a real good, revolutionary meeting.

Gross is about four miles from the trolley and Comrade Creviston lives a mile and one half from Gross, so I had to ride in a jitney over some miles of country before I discovered the "Red Onion" mine, which is "just next door to Comrade Creviston's." After the "movie" meeting Saturday evening, I had a fine ride to the trolley to go back to Pittsburg, where I had a room. Some of the "boys" might have had a good laugh to see me sailing along in a boat-shaped attachment to Comrade Creviston's motor cycle. but it was fine and I recommend it to all organizers who follow me to Crawford County.

Comrade Obitz and his wife joined the new local and said that any time the members wanted a meeting, they could have it rent free.

Louis Galena, the new secretary, can speak both English and Italian and is an active spirit among the miners. 500 copies of the Workers' World were distributed free at the two meetings and one collection was taken of over \$13.00. In spite of low wages and many strikes in this locality, the miners are ready to do their duty to the utmost.

One good friend who was with us at the meeting Saturday evening, with his two little children, Joe Bean, had to go to work in the mine early Sunday morning and had his back broken by a fall of rock.

I left sub cards for the Workers' World with the secretary, who is already a subscriber, and he will do his best to boost the paper among the miners.

—Ella Reeve Bloor.

LOCAL ST. LOUIS LINES UP.

Local St. Louis, as I have already informed you, is officially affiliated with the Communist Labor Party—and more so now, judging by the enthusiasm displayed at the debate September 26th between Max Bedacht

and I. E. Ferguson. Bedacht certainly made Ferguson feel cheap. The doubting Thomases received their money's worth at the hands of Comrade Max Bedacht. And Bob Minor received a rousing reception at his meeting. The Right Wingers left the Odeon with flushed countenances.

From now on the organization will proceed most energetically.

Yours in comradeship,
John Braun.

NEBRASKA NOTES.

Local Omaha, Communist Labor Party, is the latest development in radical politics in Omaha. At the regular meeting, Wednesday, September 17, after a resolution endorsing the Socialist Party constitution and Platform had been voted down, the change was made, authorizing affiliation with the Communist Labor Party. The only opposition of any importance encountered was that of the Jewish Branch, who were given the floor, but who, not being members of the local, however, were not entitled to vote when the matter came up for final decision.

The decision was reached after much heated debate, occupying all of this meeting and most of the preceding one. The reading of the Socialist Party minutes, started at the previous meeting, owing to the contention of a few that it was necessary to intelligent action, was dispensed with at the last meeting. The membership had had enough. They wanted to be through with the wrangling. They demanded a decision, and they got it.

At one time it looked as if there might be division on the respective merits of the Communist and Communist Labor Parties, but no division materialized. The necessity of union of the radical forces was recognized, and those comrades with a leaning toward the Communist Party, yet who were willing to disregard it for the sake of this union, are deserving of all possible praise. If such a spirit had prevailed throughout the country, there would not be two Communist parties now in existence, with the consequent confusion.

Not all of the feeling which was aroused has subsided, and probably will not do so for some time. Some of the comrades have been made unwilling members of the Communist Labor Party, and may be considering resigning or dropping out through non-payment of dues. We suggest, however, that either course be delayed for a few weeks. That will mean that they will be with us permanently. To witness the revival of revolutionary spirit and activity involved in the action taken will confirm them in a determination to remain with and work with the Communist Labor Party, and with it fight forward to victory.

As a result of the change, Socialist Hall will now be called Communist Hall. All visible signs of the former affiliation have been removed. The hall is being cleaned, old, obsolete literature given to the flames, and every arrangement made for the doing of big things in Omaha.

Similar action is expected throughout Nebraska; the campaign for which will be conducted through members of Local Omaha, Communist Labor Party. Men and money are needed. Who will volunteer?

"All power to the workers!"

Ralph Chaplin spoke at Catholic Turner Hall, Friday evening, September 26, on Leavenworth Prison experiences, incidentally making an appeal for the defense of class war prisoners. A fair crowd was present, but a liberal collection was taken and an extremely militant spirit manifested. On man, a working man, gave \$20, which attracted the attention of a Federal agent and resulted in some stern, suspicious questioning and what looked like an arrest, but the man was released immediately outside the hall.

Ralph Chaplin boasts no oratorical reputation, and he did not even pretend to deliver an oration, but he talked—calmly, readily, effectively. Vivid descriptions betokened the poetical nature of the man, but his careful and correct estimate of economic conditions and remedies, together with an admirable survey of "bobbly" cases in the courts, indicated an analytical mind.

"We are not guilty!" he declared, referring to counts in the indictment under which he and fellow-workers were tried and convicted, but he does confess to being guilty of unrelenting war on parasites and a parasitical social order. While out on bail, he is making good use of his time, informing the country where he and the rest are and are not guilty.

Bob Minor is coming. He speaks at the Swedish Auditorium, Friday, October 3, and at A. O. U. W. Hall, South Side, the following evening. Already some of the comrades are boosting for the meetings, but more are needed. Hundred of bills are to be distributed. Thousands of people must be informed. A few can do but little; many can do much. We have many radicals in Omaha. Let them come forward.

And before we forget it—boost for the Workers' World. It is the organ of the Communist Labor Party in this part of the country. We need it and it needs us, a condition very favorable for co-operation. The paper has acquired a business manager, Prashner from Leavenworth, and is in a position to handle a much larger volume of business with greater efficiency—a kind of business that is near to the hearts of all of us.

Pontius Replies To Garver

TO THE EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE ST. LOUIS LABOR:

Since your honor saw fit, in your last issue, to advise us through W. L. Garver's article, or vice versa, we wish to suggest that Comrade Garver is not infallible and was not at the Chicago Convention, thus knows only what he read from the one-sided press reports, so his ideas may also be warped as are those of many others in this controversy. It is impossible for all to be telling the truth, if we are to judge from what they say, but are rather misleading the people for selfish aims.

We are honest when we say we do not know how to decide from what we have read, or who is in the right or wrong, for we can read between the lines of the opposing parties that the advocates of both sides have axes to grind and would rather sacrifice principle, thus willingly misrepresent than tell the exact truth.

Referring to what Comrade Garver said about Comrades Katerfeldt and Wagenknecht, we sincerely believe that they are as loyal, true and as hard workers in the socialist cause as the seven autocrats who refused to give up their office when the time expired, and who set themselves up as knowing more than the 30 to 40,000 members they expelled from the party organization—including seven languages and several whole states with but little or no reason or explanation, and would not even appoint a fair investigating committee to find, for the satisfaction and benefit of all, the truth and justice of the matter.

The history of nearly all government organizations shows that more than a term or two in office, without change, causes tyranny and corruption, and we hope the socialist comrades will no longer entertain it.

In regards to frauds in the election—we cannot entertain either side, as we have only accusations and no proof, thus demand a fair investigation, and until this is done we are in the dark, besides it shows weakness on both sides. No good can come from simply accusing one another and we hope that it ceases.

The police record for years shows they line up with the bosses and au-

toocrats and against labor and right. So if we may judge the Chicago Convention with their other doings, the Germer crowd was in the wrong and the Left Wing in the right. Be this as it may, no good can come from divisions, subdivisions or jumping at conclusions or one-sided reports.

We sincerely believe the time is coming when we must go to the Soviet Russia Republic idea of government or be forever robbed by the priest-millionaire combination who did so throughout all past ages. So the best we can do is to stop quarreling over minor things and thoroughly post ourselves by examining all sides of all interested subjects and unite instead of giving our enemies the satisfaction of paying their millions to keep us divided.

We have already dozens of labor organizations, three socialists, the I. W. W.'s, the non-Partisan League, the anarchists, the Bolsheviks, and the like 17..Workers World Bill Bertram—each is organized for better conditions and against the profiteering system which is labor's greatest enemy and the real robber of the helpless.

Then why not reason together and unite in One Big Union. When this is done it will be easy to demand our rights, not only in one country but in all countries.

We therefore beg of all not to be stubborn and sacrifice your better judgment at the detriment of the needy millions and be the laughing stock of our enemies. Be honest, be loyal, be true, and let our motto and principle aim be, Unite!

James Pontius,
Financial Secretary, Sedalia,
Mo., Local.

CORRESPONDENCE

South Omaha, Nebr.,
Sept. 18th, 1919.

Dear Comrade:

I am asking for a little place in the Workers' World. Please don't leave this out for I sure got sick listening to some of the members of Local Omaha on Wednesday evening, September 17th. There were some of the supporters of N. E. C.

Wonder how long Local Omaha is going to monkey around the old Socialist Party. Can't they decide where they should belong? Are they going to follow those who are the supporters of opportunistic N. E. C. as Stedman and Germer & Co? Will they allow their meetings to be controlled by the supporters of N. E. C., as I, the undersigned, have seen and heard at their last two meetings, especially the one of the 17th of this month. Even some of their members refused to pay their monthly dues, just because the money was not sent to the National Office at Chicago to the opportunistic N. E. C.

It is not my intention to manage Local Omaha, but I should say that, any member who refuses to pay their dues, for a reason like this, in other words for no reason, they are not entitled to be called socialists. They are not worthy to bear the name of Socialist. They are merely weak-minded creatures.

Furthermore, all those who favor the action of N. E. C. and all those who are too strong for Mr. Stedman, would do better if they quit the Communist Labor Party at once, and go to Mr. Stedman who will receive them with wide open arms. Such members are harmful to the revolutionary Labor movement, they had better stay out.

I remain yours for International Communism,
M. U. member,
South Slavic Branch, No. 57.

IMPORTANT MEETING Of Local Kansas

City Socialist Party

To Hear Reports of Convention Delegates
and Decide Future Affiliation of the Local

Sunday, October 5th, 2:30 p. m.

Bookbinders' Hall 12th and Central
E. D. Wilcox, Secy.

Basket Supper and Farewell Meeting

For

Ella Reeve Bloor

Sunday October 5, at 6 p. m.

Bookbinders' Hall
12th and Central

Admission Free

Everybody Welcome

I believe in a SQUARE DEAL
TO EVERYBODY on earth,
that is WHY I PATRONIZE
this paper

Harry Chilton
Groceries and Meats
902 S. W. Boulevard
528 S. W. Boulevard, Rosedale
Kinney Heights, Rosedale

American Auction Co.
1420 Grand Avenue
Has a Large Stock of
SECOND HAND
and NEW FURNITURE
Special Reduction to those who bring this od.
Also buy all kinds of Furniture
Home Main 1351

The Question of Unity

How We Invited the Communist Convention to Join With Us

The delegates assembled in the Convention which formed the Communist Labor Party, understanding their mandate to mean that the rank and file desired a party founded upon Communist principles as laid down in the Manifesto of the Third International formed at Moscow, in which all the revolutionary elements of the movement should be united, spared no effort to bring about a reconciliation with the Communist Convention.

Four times offers were made to the Communist Convention to unite with us upon an equal basis, and four times they refused.

The difference which separated the two Conventions at first were merely technical ones; namely: the bulk of our delegates had been instructed to go first to the National Emergency Convention, and the bulk of theirs, to the Communist Convention. The delegations of the Communist leaders, that our Convention contained a Centrist element were merely camouflage: for their Convention also contained groups not accepting the principles of Communism—the Michigan group, and a large number of Federation delegates who voted the way Stoklitsky voted.

On the first night of our meeting as a separate organization, Sunday, August 31st, our Convention appointed a committee of five, to invite the National Council of the Left Wing and the Organizing Committee of the Communist Convention to appoint a Committee to confer with our Committee upon the constitution of a basis of unity of the two bodies. The National Council of the Left Wing and the Organizing Committee of the Communist Convention replied that they had no power to act, but would refer the matter to the Communist Convention.

Statement of the Joint Organization Committee of the Communist Party.

The Joint Organization Committee of the Communist Party Convention, composed of the National Organization Committee and the National Left Wing Council, can make no decisions for the Convention. The question of voting in the Convention is a question for the Credentials Committee. Every person who comes into the Convention holds his seat and has his vote subject to the final actions of the Contest and Credentials Committee. Our Committee could not go beyond the matter of preliminary arrangements.

We have, however, acted on the question of making up the roster of delegates who shall participate in the preliminary organization of the Convention. We have acted on the basis of the Joint Call; the Convention will be organized by delegates who present credentials according to the Joint Call. This Joint Committee has already decided that delegates who have credentials to this Convention, regardless of the participation in the Emergency Convention, shall have votes in the preliminary organization. We therefore present to your committee the Joint Call as an integral part of this answer.

This technical situation does not affect the essential question of unity. This is a Convention question, and it will come up in due course through the work of the Credentials Committee. We ask your Committee, therefore, to make up for our Credentials Committee a complete list of your delegates, the organization and number of members they represent in each instance, and such instructions, if any, as each delegate or individual may have. . . This will give us the basis we need for acting on the proposal of unity.

Our spirit in this matter is epitomized in a resolution which this Committee adopted unanimously in its first meeting, to invite all bolting delegates from the Socialist Party Convention to sit with us, in a reserved section, as special guests of the Convention, until the disposition of credentials give us the basis for an exact answer. The Convention may also decide to take up this question aside from the work of the Credentials Committee, in either case we will make as prompt answer as possible.

Daniel Elbaum
C. E. Ruthenberg
John Keracher
Louis C. Fraina
A. Stoklitsky
John J. Ballam
S. A. Kopnagle
Joseph Y. Stilson
I. E. Ferguson, Sec.

The Communist Convention, upon convening, at first refused to appoint the committee asked for. The following day, however—Tuesday, September 2nd—the Communist Convention rescinded its action and elected the

Committee. The joint meeting of the two Committees then took place. The Committee from the Communist Convention, composed of Stoklitsky, Hourwich, Elbaum, Ferguson and Ruthenberg, held a caucus lasting half an hour, after which they replied that the Convention was not yet organized, but that as soon as permanent organization had been completed, they would draw up a statement to be presented to us.

On Wednesday, September 3d, the Committee from the Communist Convention appeared at our meeting, with the following statement, which at their request was read to our convention:

Before the beginning of the war in August, 1914, sharp differences in principles and tactics had made themselves apparent in the parties within the Second International. In each country there was the faction which placed its reliance upon the parliaments of the bourgeois state for the transformation of Capitalism into Socialism. This faction, the dominant element in the Socialist Party in practically every country, directed its tactics and agitation to the end of attaining a majority in the parliaments. They argued that this majority, through legislative action, would end the power of the capitalists in industry and build up the structure of the new society.

In harmony with this conception, it considered the activities of its parliamentary representatives for reform measures intended to improve the position of the workers under the capitalist system, as the method by which Socialism would be established.

In sharp conflict with these Moderate Socialists stood the Revolutionary Socialists, which rejected the idea that the class struggle could be won in the bourgeois parliaments. The Revolutionary Socialists contended that the emancipation of the working class could not be achieved through the capitalist state, but only through the overthrow of the capitalist state by the mass power of the workers, and the establishment of a new organ of state power by the working class, in the form of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, for the transformation of Capitalism into Communism.

Between these groups stood the wavering centre, Rejecting the idea of legislating capitalism out of existence a step at a time, and therefore not agitating primarily for social reform measures under the capitalist system, this faction nevertheless considered the bourgeois state as the medium through which Capitalism would be abolished.

It required the test of action under revolutionary crisis to bring out the irreconcilable differences between these factions. Under the test of action it was found that Moderate Socialism betrayed the class struggle in favor of "reconciliation of the classes." Moderate Socialism is today directly and openly counter-revolutionary. The Center, because of its vacillation, is even more dangerous because its revolutionary phrases conceal its betrayal of the revolutionary class struggle.

Although the movement in this country has not undergone the test of revolutionary experience in an advanced stage, the influence of the social revolution in Russia, and the struggle in Germany, have deepened the differences between the three factions. After months of agitation and discussion, we find, at this moment, the old Party splitting into three organizations corresponding to the three fundamental differences of viewpoint which have heretofore existed in the one party.

Out of the Socialist Party Convention, easily controlled by the Right Wing by ruthless manipulation, there have gathered in your Convention delegates who for a large variety of reasons are opposed to association with the Right Wingers. Many of your delegates left the Socialist Party Convention merely because they object to the methods of those in control of the old organization. The leaders of your group have carried on their campaign against the old party upon legalistic grounds. They have emphasized the questions of party regularity; they have asked for support upon this basis, not upon understanding and acceptance of Communist principles and tactics.

There are delegates in your group who have made use of revolutionary phrases without conception of the differences in principles and tactics which separate the Right Wing from the Left. There are delegates who are with you because of personal grievances against the old party officialdom, or against the Left Wing officialdom.

One of your delegates, for instance,

in his statement before the Socialist Party contest committee, specifically repudiated ever having endorsed the Left Wing or being in sympathy with it. There are delegates with you on the basis of objection to "foreign" control, thus showing inability to grasp the first principle of Communism. Think of such an objection against an organization which is to be the American Branch of the Communist International?

In the Communist Convention are to be found the representatives of the conscious Communist elements in this country. In contrast to your heterogeneous bolting delegates, most of them without a mandate from any membership for the organization of a new party, the delegates in our Convention came clearly instructed to form a Communist Party based upon the principles and tactics of the Communist International.

It must be remembered that a Communist Party gains nothing by additional membership unless that membership is consciously Communist. Ours must be a party closely united on fundamentals.

In considering our proposal for a unity of all the delegates now in Chicago who represent Communist groups, it must be kept clearly in mind that our Convention is absolutely bound by the Joint Call, which accounts for the presence of 128 delegates and 9 fraternal delegates in this city. These delegates represent 58,000 members. Their mandate from this membership is stated in the Joint Call. Obviously our Convention is bound by the call which brought it into existence.

By this we do not mean to lay down any rule of formalism. To say that we are bound by the Joint Call, is only another way of saying that the fact of our Convention means a fundamental basis of agreement arrived at by discussion among these members. Every delegate in our Convention owes his seat to the fact that our Committee on Credentials has had placed before it the documentary evidence of a membership mandate to organize a Communist Party.

Our Convention would lose its real meaning if every additional delegate did not meet the same test. There is nothing in the nature of an adventure in our work. It has been deliberately planned; it is the calculated response to the development of the Left Wing movement within the Socialist Party; it is not an accidental gathering of Socialist Party members who happen to agree at the moment that a new party might be the right way to give expression and force to the revolutionary Socialist movement in this country, speculating as to what response such an experiment might meet.

This is our instruction from our Convention: that every additional delegate must present his credentials to our Credentials Committee in the same manner as delegates already seated. This instruction carries with it the clear implication that every additional delegate who votes in our Convention must meet the test which puts him on the same membership basis as the rest of us. His vote, in addition to the votes already assigned within our Convention, must be in correspondence with the membership of the state or organization he represents.

There are some delegates with credentials covering both the Socialist and Communist Conventions, who have already been received for full participation in our Convention. Others who have such credentials will be similarly received through the Credentials Committee. There may be other cases which would meet the same general test in a different way, according to the principles already stated.

Delegates from the Left Wing States or other organizations, that is, organizations which have adopted the Left Wing program, but who have no credentials or instruction from their rank and file to the Communist Convention and who were not elected in opposition to the Communist Convention, therefore fail to participate as voting members of our body, will be seated as fraternal delegates. This Committee will favor the exclusion, however, of delegates who opposed the Joint Call for the Communist Convention, or who were elected on such opposition.

The total delegates for any State or other organization will be reduced by the number of delegates for such organization already seated in our convention.

(Signed)
Alexander Stoklitsky
C. E. Ruthenberg
Daniel Elbaum
Nicholas I. Hourwich
I. E. Ferguson

Committee of the Communist Convention.

September 3, 1919.

Our Committee drew up the following answer, which was adopted by our Convention and sent to the Communist Convention, with a request to have it read upon the floor:

Answer of the Communist Labor Party Convention to the Statement of the Communist Convention.

We waive answer to the introduction in your statement, because it contains no point of controversy. Neither do we care to propagandize the Communist Convention, for we are sure that the introduction to your statement is common knowledge among revolutionary Socialists.

The Left Wing movement is not a child of a day. Left Wing movements have existed in the Socialist Parties of the world ever since we have had Socialist Parties. The only difference between the Left Wing factions of today and those of before the war, is that the Left Wing factions of today have added to their fund of knowledge the experiences of the War and Revolutions.

Immediately after the Russian Revolution, Left Wing manifestations in the Socialist Party of this country became more pronounced, and gradually crystallized until a very large element in the Socialist Party accepted the Left Wing position.

This eventually resulted in the suspension and expulsion from the party of a portion of the Left Wing element by a reactionary officialdom. When this definite break occurred, a conference was held in Chicago, at which Fraina, Keracher, Ferguson, Ruthenberg, Stoklitsky and Stilson were present. It was there agreed to carry on the fight for the Left Wing and its principles within the Socialist Party, in order to rally all Left Wing forces for a final battle against Right Wing control.

At this conference it was unanimously decided to divide the necessary work to be done. The duty of making what is now called the "legalistic" fight, was given the Ohio State Office of the Socialist Party, and it was agreed that the Revolutionary Age should continue its propaganda for Left Wing dominance of principle. Under these circumstances, any criticism of our group for making a "legalistic" fight is unworthy of those who make it.

The decision to carry on the fight within the Socialist Party was endorsed by the Left Wing National Conference, and again at the meeting of the National Executive Committee held in Chicago in July. Members of your group, Fraina, Ruthenberg and others, there again agreed to this course.

Despite these repeated decisions to carry on the fight for Left Wing control within the party, certain elements in your group began to organize a new party. We refer to the Russian Federations—Michigan combination, which united not upon principle, but for political expediency.

The National Left Wing Council, a creature of the National Left Wing Conference, violated its instructions—was stamped into joining this call for the organization of a new party.

The group we represent remained true to all edicts officially issued by these several Left Wing conferences, carried the battle to the Emergency National Convention of the Socialist Party, and there made a decisive fight. We shall probably never find ourselves in agreement with the tactic of hopping from one position to another at the rate of nearly twice a week, in direct violation of the mandates of higher governing bodies and agreements.

We agree that the sentiment of the membership in a large organization can never be definitely gauged. However, the Socialist Party membership, by a vote of about 10 to 1 decided to affiliate with the Moscow International. This would at least mean that by far the greater majority of the membership of the Socialist Party subscribes to the Left Wing program. The Left Wing delegates who compose the Convention of the Communist Labor Party, are unanimously in favor of carrying out this decision of one party membership. All actions of this Convention must be in harmony with this membership decision. The 92 delegates which compose this Convention represent an overwhelming majority of the Socialist Party membership. The delegates who compose your Convention, in the main, are separated from us merely because of the one fact that a few reactionary officials kicked them out of the party.

We have kept our joint agreements. You have violated yours. You deserted us. You deserted the membership of the party when it needed you most. It is therefore assuming much on your part to attempt to lay down terms to us. Despite your inconsistencies, we now offer to meet you, to unite the two Conventions upon a basis of equality.

We see many inconsistent elements

in your Convention. We are, however, desirous of uniting all forces of Communism into one solid phalanx to oppose both Capitalism and the elements of reactionary bourgeois Socialism. We are sure that in the course of time, all inconsistent elements will drop out. Considering these inconsistent elements in your Convention, you cannot justly criticize any seeming inconsistent element in ours.

We must refuse your demand to come into your Convention as individual delegates. We are Left Wing delegates, regularly assembled in Emergency Convention and have permanently constituted ourselves the Communist Labor Party. We represent a permanent and stable organization. We have obeyed all agreements of the Left Wing Conferences which were legitimate. We have also obeyed the mandates of the revolutionary faction of the party membership as credit for the crystallization of the revolutionary elements expressed by referendum. We can claim at least as much among the Socialist Party membership as your volatile and bolting groups.

We claim ours is the advantageous position. Yet we are willing to meet with you as equals. Unity can be effected and should be effected, so that out of the existing crisis, instead of two parties, each claiming the right to affiliate with the Moscow International, and each deserving that right, only one party of the Communist Socialism shall emerge.

Toward this end we propose: That the two conference committees shall constitute a joint Credentials Committee to go over the roster of both Conventions to see whether they really contain any irreconcilable elements, and if possible, to agree upon a joint recommendation to both conventions.

(Signed)
Kasper Bauer
Ludwig Lore
Katherine Greenhalgh
L. E. Katterfeld
A. Wagenknecht

On Thursday, September 4th, our Convention, still sincerely desirous of a reconciliation, appointed another Committee of three, with instructions to convey to the Communist Convention an invitation to meet with us in informal session Friday afternoon, September 5th, at one o'clock. In instructing our Committee, it was the sense of the Convention that the body of the delegates of both Conventions earnestly wished a joining of forces, and that the joint meeting would give both sides a chance to sit together and demonstrate the pettiness of the prejudices and suspicions which still held us apart.

This invitation was read by a member of our committee upon the floor of the Communist Convention. Upon a motion by Comrade Ferguson, the Communist Convention voted to stand by its original answer. The Communist Convention then sent us the following communication:

To the Delegates of the Communist Labor Party Convention.

The Communist Party Convention, in replying to the Committee of the Communist Labor Party Convention, can take no account of the various decisions of the groups which met at Chicago immediately following the expulsion and suspensions made by the old National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party; nor of the agreements credited to the Left Wing National Conference, the National Left Wing Council, the Minority group of the Left Wing Conference, or the new Socialist Party National Executive Committee. Each of these must and will answer for itself.

This Convention has no question about the rank and file of the Socialist Party. The ten to one vote to join the Communist International is one of the items which account for our presence in Chicago to organize the Communist Party of America. Examination of the ballots in this referendum and of our roster of delegates, will show that it is our Communist Party membership which cast the overwhelming bulk of these votes.

As to the charges of inconsistent elements in our Convention, that will be tested by the program and constitution which we adopt. We have absolute confidence that our Convention will act in clarity of principle without compromise. There can be no charge of inconsistent elements in our party if the work of our Convention shows agreement on Communist fundamentals, in principles, program of party work, and form of party organization.

We can only refer your delegates again to our answer of September 3rd. We appeal to your delegates to act on their individual judgment, not in false sense of loyalty to an accidental grouping in a body which represents no membership organization. Some of your delegates belong with us by clear mandate of their membership, and they must realize their responsibility in assuming at this crucial time of

function directly against the Communist Party.

(Signed)

Alexander Stoklitsky
C. E. Ruthenberg
Daniel Elbaum
Nicholas I. Hourwich
I. E. Ferguson

Committee of the Communist Convention.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 4th, '19.

Even after this rebuff, however, our Convention did not give up all hope of gathering together in one organization all the revolutionary elements in the movement.

On Friday, September 5th, our Convention adopted a motion which is contained in the following proclamation issued by the National Executive Committee, September 6, 1919:

Chicago Ill., Sept. 6, 1919

To the Delegates and Members of the Communist Party.

Comrades:—

The Communist Labor Party Convention by unanimous vote adopted the following resolution:

"Be it resolved, That the Communist Labor Party extends a standing invitation to the Communist Party to meet, on a basis of equality, in a Unity Conference, and

That we hereby instruct our National officials and committees to accept every such invitation from the Communist Party, or any other revolutionary working class organization."

The Convention has now completed its work and has adjourned. Obedient to these instructions from the Convention, the National Executive Committee of the Communist Labor Party addresses this letter to you.

Comrades, the organization of two Communist Parties is a crime. We have made every effort possible, short of turning traitor to the membership that sent us here, to avoid this deplorable situation. But our repeated attempts to unite all the revolutionary Communist hosts seem to have been thwarted for the time being by certain elements in your Convention.

As far as we can discover, there is no fundamental difference of principle between us. The platform, program and resolutions that our convention has adopted are uncompromisingly revolutionary. They conform to the Left Wing program and are in strict accord with the principles laid down by the Communist International of Moscow. We are affiliating with the Third International.

We hereby announce that we are ready at any time to meet your representatives to consider the question of unity on a basis of equality.

If certain elements in your Party make this impossible we invite all individuals or groups, who may agree with us in our desire to unite all the Communist elements of the United States into ONE party of Communist Socialism, to join forces with us.

All who agree on the fundamentals of Communism, all who desire to affiliate with the Third International of Moscow, are welcome in the Communist Labor Party.

Comrades, let us UNITE against our common foe.

Communist Labor Party.

Jack Carney
Edward Lindgren
Max Bedacht
Alexander Bilan
L. E. Katterfeld
A. Wagenknecht, Executive Secretary.

BOOKS WORTH READING

"Six Red Months in Russia"
"Ten Days That Shook the World"
"The Proletarian Revolution in Russia"

September Liberator now on Sale
PROGRESSIVE NEWS CO.
405 East 12th St.

You Should Read The MODERNIST

A Monthly Magazine of Arts & Letters
Edited By
JAMES WALDO FAWCETT
The MODERNIST ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHERS
25 East 14th St., New York City
20 cents per copy \$2.00 per year

CALLS MADE FREE CONSULTATION

I SPECIALIZE

In Electro Magnetic Sweet Baths and Chiropractic Adjustments in Nervous, Spine and Chronic Diseases. The baths take out the poisons. The adjustments take away nerve pressure and nature's cures.

Dr. A. Roshong
CHIROPRACTIC
Hours 2 to 6 and by Appointment
Home Phone Main 7744
419 Altman Building
Kansas City, Mo.

Editorial Page of the Workers' World

The Workers' World.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE, INCORPORATED.
P. O. Box 697, Office Room 2 Schutte Bldg., 1209 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Mo.
Home Phone Main 8665.

JAMES P. CANNON - - - Managing Editor
Associate Editors:
JOHN DEQUEL, RALPH CHEYNEY,
HARRY SALPETER, ALANSON SESSIONS,
JAMES WALDO FAWCETT,
Cartoonist:
GEO. W. PARDEY.

We Use the International Labor News Service.
EDITORS: Scott Nearing, Alexander Trachtenberg, Louis P. Lochner

Subscription Price: One year, \$2; Six months, \$1;
Single Copies, 3 cents per Copy. Advertising
Rates on Application.

The Editorial Board is not Responsible for Opinions
Expressed in Signed Articles.

Kansas City, Mo., Friday October 3, 1919.

The Worker's World is Coming

(By Ralph Cheyney.)

The Communist Labor Party has been organized at last. Finally the crying need of the times for a really revolutionary Socialist party has been met. A wonderful destiny awaits us, if we can but measure up to our function. The Social Revolution is coming. It is almost here. It is even now beginning. Everyday unrest grows. Every day dissatisfaction with Capitalism assumes even more tremendous proportions. Every day greater and greater masses of the people see more and ever more clearly how the courts and colleges and churches, the press and legislative halls are all completely controlled by the predatory profiteering interests. Every day the absurdity of expecting political democracy to be anything but a hypocritical farce unless there is industrial democracy as well is being perceived by ever widening circles of people. Every day disgust with the A. F. of L. and the pseudo-Socialist Party is doubling and trebling and quadrupling. Every day the "One Big Union" and the "Soviet Socialist System" are more and more in the mouths and the minds and hearts of the workers everywhere. The Workers' World is coming. It is almost here. It has already begun in Russia. It began in Hungary but was killed by the Allies, despite their braggadocio about democracy and the self-determination of small nationalities—killed but to be born again. The Co-operative Commonwealth is even now about to begin everywhere. You and I will see it. Our children will spend most of their lives in a freer world. Our children's children will not know starvation and overwork and economic exploitation and depreciation.

The function of the Communist Labor Party is to usher in this new regime of happiness and peace and liberty. If it fails to fulfill this mission, the mantle of leadership will fall on the shoulders of some other organization. But it is only the route mapped out by it or one closely parallel that will lead the proletariat to the Promised Land. Over this road all the workers of the world will pass. There is but one question: How soon will they pass? The day of Labor's triumph cannot be postponed for long. The dictatorship of Wall Street under which we are now suffering will shortly be superseded by the dictatorship of the workers—the other words for which are "industrial democracy"—and that by freedom itself. How soon this will happen depends on the workers. As soon as they are intelligently, aggressively united the world will be theirs for the having. How soon they will wisely and militantly subscribe to the principle of Solidarity depends largely on how solidly organized and soundly and shrewdly and squarely conducted is the work of the Communist Labor Party.

The organization has been affected, effected excellently, on the right basis for success. As long as personal differences of opinion are not permitted to disrupt the party, as long as we put into practice the principles of freedom of speech and self-discipline, we may well have the firmest faith in the nature of our organization and throw all our energies into the task it was perfected to perform. (That we shall not have our work interfered with by personal squabbles, suppression within the organization and self-interest, I have no doubt, for those who are seeking self-advancement will undoubtedly stay in the Socialist Party of America where they will continue to find ideal opportunities for self-aggrandizement under the cloak of self-sacrificing devotion to social ends.)

What is the first task we have to perform? The first task and the last is EDUCATION. The harnessing of the forces of discontent into effective engines for the destruction of the present order and the construction of the Soviet world is our historic function. The major part of this task consists of educating the worker already dissatisfied.

It is not our job to fan the fires of discontent; they do not need it. It is not our job to make the class struggle more bitter and obvious; it is only too bitter and obvious already. It is not our job to dig the grave for Capitalism; it has dug its own grave and is about to bury itself. It is our job to use the fires of discontent and the lighting of revolution to make light for this dark world and energy for operating the machinery of transformation of the chaos that surrounds us into the Co-operative Commonwealth. It is our job to teach and train the proletariat so that it will win the class struggle. It is our job to enlighten and educate the workers and win them into our organization so that the burial of Capitalism will mean the birth of Civilization. It is, more immediately, our job to teach and train ourselves so that we may be in a position to teach and train our fellow-workers into teaching and training themselves.

High Lights From Bob Minor's Speech

"The first act of the nations which constitute the embryo League of Nations is to exterminate the two first working class republics of the earth, Hungary and Russia. . . . In order to accomplish their purposes they have ever disgraced the tongue of man. . . . They say that the government to celebrate the October Revolution, turned the women of the Bourgeois class of Moscow over to the working class in the streets for their pleasure."

I saw what actually happened in Moscow. There was the most peaceable and the most tremendous parade and demonstration that ever the eye of man looked upon, and the women of the bourgeois class that day were thumping typewriters for the Russian Republic. . . . because the Russian Soviet Republic has arranged it so that those that do not earn their bread do not get any."

"It has been stated by those who shut off your natural sources of information from Russia, that thirty-four tyrants are ruling Russia today. I know that that is false, and yet, if it were true, Russia would have thirty-four times as many people ruling it as the United States had ruling it during the war."

"I want to assure you that the streets of Moscow are more orderly than the streets of Seattle. . . . I used to sit on the benches in the park in the center of the City of Moscow which is called Theatre Square. I read the papers there every day in the Russian language. . . . and it was very difficult and exciting to wrestle with those long Russian words, but that was the only excitement going on in the square. All this time the English papers were announcing that the Chinese mercenaries were holding that square with machine guns and artillery. While I was in Russia for nine months I only saw fifteen Chinese in Bolshevik uniform and each one of these was a Socialist."

The sailors in the Fort at Kronstadt

received a message that, in the City of San Francisco, Thomas J. Mooney was about to be hanged. The sailors held a meeting of 30,000 men in that Fort and they appointed a committee to wait upon Ambassador Francis at Petrograd. . . . and within an hour he was spending good United States money on telegrams to Washington, saying, 'For God's sake don't hang Tom Mooney.'"

"Under Kerensky's regime it was impossible for industry or political government to proceed. The workmen made impossible demands upon the employing class. . . . But there was one group of men, at the head of whom was Nicolai Lenin, who knew how those demands could be met. They had this theory, that if you want to stop unreasonable demands, make the men responsible themselves. So Lenin's program was to make labor responsible for the pay roll and then they would not demand more than what was to be had."

"While Kerensky ruled nominally people used to get permits from him to carry on certain transactions. They would go out with these permits, for instance, to get a railway train assigned. . . . and the railway workmen would look at these permits and ask 'Why is that guy—that Kerensky?' They would not pay any attention. These men soon learned that if they would go to the workmen's Soviets or Councils to get their permits that they could get anything on earth in Russia done for them."

"These Soviets were simply the getting together of the workmen in the factories, mines and the workshops immediately after the downfall of the Czar. When the Czar fell there was a short sharp fight between the working class and the police. Within a few days there were not any police in Russia. Thereupon the workmen appointed committees to look after the affairs in the factories and workshops. These committees became all-powerful. It was found that

no one else in Russia really had any power but these Soviets, these councils of workmen—the political government was nothing but an empty shell."

"By October the working class were armed and they made a short sharp fight and Kerensky fell. Mind you, it was not one group of men that caused the revolution of October, 1917. It would have occurred if there had never been such a man born as Nicolai Lenin. There were various parties agitating for this revolution, but behind it all was a force more potent than any party—it was the insistent urge of the times for Industrial Democracy and it was bound to come no matter who was at the head of it. The man who showed the greatest ability to express that fact was Lenin and, for that reason alone, he became the leader of the revolt. After the establishment of these Soviets in power and the agreement of all the army and the workmen that thereafter all official acts would be recognized only when coming from the workmen's Councils the construction of the Soviet Republic began."

"Immediately the business class began to strike. They had the idea that all of the efficiency necessary to run industry was to be found in the business class, but the Bolsheviks found ability in the working class. Bill Shatoff, a former organizer for the I. W. W. became the general manager of the Nicolovsky Railway, the most important trunk line of central Russia, and from that time on trains were on time. Some of the bourgeois element decided to ruin this railroad management by misdirecting trains and otherwise hampering railway operations. But Bill Shatoff had a habit of finding them out and turning them over to a squad of soldiers, and the sabotage ceased."

"In the army the officers went on strike, but they found enough military ability among the rank and file to of-

ficer the entire Red Guard and beat everything in sight. A man from Chicago, who had been a rain-coat maker became commander of the regiment that held the critical point where General Kaledine was defeated, defeated and driven to such despair that he committed suicide."

"When the bourgeois were invited to participate in Russian industry on an even basis with all men, most of them at first refused and went into the business of food speculation. By cornering the food supply they drove prices up as I have told you. The plan of the bourgeois was to destroy the Labor Republic by famine. They began to blow up bridges, wreck trains and assassinate railroad engineers, shooting them in the back, so that trains would run wild and wrecks result. While I was in Moscow I saw them burn a railway station because in the freight yard there were train loads of food for the starving city. The American and all other diplomats, in the meantime, were co-operating with the bourgeois of Russia."

"The workmen's Soviets continued to demand some sort of assistance in order to get out of making peace with the tyrant, the Kaiser of Germany. The Allies made all sorts of empty promises. . . . The Brest-Litovsk Treaty was signed because there was no response to these requests. . . . Lenin sent word to Washington that if the United States government would give a little bit of assistance in the fight that the Treaty would not be ratified and the war would continue. The Soviet Peace Congress was postponed two days waiting for Woodrow Wilson to send word to Russia that he would allow America to give a little assistance to make it possible for them to fight the German. There was no answer and I say to you that the American Diplomatic representatives had more to do with Russia signing the Brest-Litovsk Treaty than Lenin or Trotzky."

Counting Noses

With a population less than that of the United States, Great Britain reports a trade union membership 50 per cent greater. The United States Labor Dept. estimates that "in all probability the actual total trade union membership of Great Britain is nearly six millions." This number includes 890,000 miners; 556,000 workers in machine shops and foundries; 535,000 railway employees; 350,000 cotton mill workers; 280,000 builders and wood workers and 170,000 shipyard workers. "General Labor" is credited with a total union membership of 970,000. These together with several less numerous trade organizations constitute the bulk of six million British trade unionists.

Membership is not always a test of strength. Nevertheless, there is a clear connection between the effectiveness of the British Labor Movement and the relatively large number of workers who have joined the ranks of British labor. When the labor unions are able to report a membership of 13 or 14 millions (instead of something over 4 millions, as at the present time) they will be in a position of authority equal to that of their British comrades.—Scott Nearing.

Whose Side Are You On?

(By P. H. Harrison.)

Thousands on strike! Industries closing down! The growing fear—no work. Intolerable conditions.

The high cost of living is starving women and children in this country. Food is rotting in storage. The workers have produced it but the capitalists own it. To which class do you belong, workers or capitalists?

If you are a capitalist, then you belong to that part of society that is living off the exploitation of human labor. If you are a worker, then you are compelled through your economic conditions to sell your energy to your boss at so much per day. He uses you like anything else—a means to get profits.

When the markets are stocked, then the capitalist throws you out on the scrap heap—it does not pay to buy your energy. You are on the labor market. That is the explanation of these periodical strikes you are familiar with—also lock-outs.

Since the war thousands of industries have closed down. Munitions and everything else that goes with brutal warfare are no longer needed. The workers are now reaping the fruits of the war. The capitalists have already reaped and pocketed

theirs. What was your share?

The workers have not only given millions of their male population, but have lost thousands of both sexes and all ages by the disease in the fall of 1918.

Countless numbers are given up annually to the exploitation system of production—the capitalist machine.

There is but one solution to this international suicide. Throw off the chains of capitalism!

The land, mines, factories and industries are now owned and controlled by the few to enslave the many.

Why not have them owned by the many and liberate your class from wage slavery, from capitalism, from exploitation?

Just as social production has superseded individual production, so social ownership and control should supersede individual ownership.

Stop this system of exploitation, of profiteering from the expenditure of human energy of your class.

Save the workers from the iron heel of industrial capitalism by organizing for working class control.

On whose side are you—the workers' or the exploiters'?

ALL POWER TO THE WORKERS!

Oh! For The Old Days!

During these times of bitter industrial strife when the workers, no longer accepting the authority of their masters, demand an ever larger share in the direction of industry, it must be soothing to many plutocrats to recall the good old days when workers did what they were told, without striking for shorter hours or insisting upon the right of the laborer to determine the conditions of his own life.

Professor U. B. Phillips, in a recent book on "American Negro Slavery" discusses the "desirability" of the various races of Africans. Some of the tribesmen were fierce, resentful and rebellious. Such were the Coromantees, who were said to possess a dignity, a fortitude, a courage and a love of liberty that defied the efforts of task-masters. They could not be tamed. Therefore slave buyers avoided them wherever possible. In fact, the Coromantees would not sell if there were other slaves in the market. On the contrary, "the Whydahs, Nagoes and Pawpaws of the Slave Coast were generally the most highly esteemed of all. They were lusty and industrious, cheerful and submissive. That punishment which excites the Koromantyn to rebel, and drives the Ebo negro to suicide, is received by

the Pawpaws as the chastisement of legal authority and to which it was their duty to submit patiently."

What peace of mind would the masters of American industrial life not be able to enjoy if they could but replace the Irish, Russian, Polish, Welsh, Bavarian, Italian, Japanese, Austrian and American born laborers of these United States with twenty million Pawpaws? Since the laws make that impossible, how admirable

it would be for the masters, if the public school teachers and newspaper editors, joining hands with the movie operators, ministers, lecturers, and other shapers of public opinion, could make the children of today into a generation of workers who were "lusty and industrious, cheerful and submissive."

Alas! those good old days seem to have gone—we hope forever.—Scott Nearing.

Ella Reeve Bloor

Doctor Bloor, our "Patron Saint,"

Eager, alert, intelligent, quaint,

Growing younger as years go by,

Giving decrepid "Old Time" the lie,

When he hints she is old, 'tis time to retire,

Then she is a live electrical wire.

Able and earnest, patient and kind,

She treats the eyes of the mentally blind,

Removes the film from their weakened sight,

Brings to them gladness, hope and light,

Though they may grumble, wiggle and swear,

She keeps at work, their sight to repair.

The regular Practitioner dislikes her work,

Prefers that she should loaf and shirk,

Hold in her arms a poodle dog

Or sit at home like a bump on a log.

It is real distressing to see the way

The Political Doctors are filled with dismay.

If she and her kind keep treating the poor,

Healing eyes that were dim before,

The politician will lose his job,

Have to work, be a low down gob,

Or his pay will stop then where would he be?

The end of the World, he then could see.

Dear "Patron Saint," may you never grow older;

Each day, may you feel both stronger and bolder:

And stay on the job to the end of the fight,

'Till might is subdued, is conquered by right.

Then we will crown you queen of the May.

Strew flowers in your way to the end of your day.

William Browder,
Independence, Mo.,
August 30, 1919.