

Without Youth, No Revolution

By I. AMTER.

(NOTE:—*Comrade Amter is well known in communist and labor circles of the United States, and is at present residing in Moscow. He attended the enlarged session of the executive committee of the Communist International as a representative of the central executive committee of the Workers Party of America and was present in Moscow when the International Youth Day celebrations were held.*—ED.)

“WITHOUT youth no mass movement. Without youth no Communist Party.” Thus spoke Zinoviev in the English Commission of the Enlarged Executive Sessions. And in doing so, he laid down as the first and foremost task of the Communist Party of Great Britain the formation of a powerful youth movement.

In these few words Zinoviev summarized that which has made the Communist movement of the world the power that it represents today. The constant struggle of today with yesterday, of youth with age. To live in Soviet Russia is to see the principle in life. The enthusiasm of the Communist Party is due to its youthful members. The virility of the party, the enterprise of the Soviet Government, the undertaking of what capitalists consider phantastic—are all due to the youthful attitude of the Communists of Soviet Russia.

Youth Day in the Land of Revolution.

This again was best shown in the splendid demonstration that took place on International Youth Day on September 2. All the youth of Russia were out on that day: from the little tots six and seven years of age to the old men sixty and seventy years old, who marched along with the boys and girls of Moscow, telling the decrepit bourgeoisie of the world that their curfew was sounding. The “Pioneers” were out, leading the fine parade. These are the Boy and Girl Scouts of Soviet Russia, permeated with the spirit of the Social Revolution. These are the tots who are breathing in the spirit of Revolution from the very atmosphere in which they live, who see their brothers and fathers, sisters and mothers devoting themselves, body and soul, to the Revolution, to upbuild the Soviet State, making it a model and an inspiration to the workers of the world. What else could these little children become, but Revolutionists—provided the world will still need Revolutionists when they are grown to young manhood and womanhood.

Behind them came the factory boys and girls, who study and

work at the same time. Fresh, boisterous, enthusiastic—they marched across the Red Square, where the Red Soldiers stood on May Day and took the oath to the Revolution. Bands played every few hundred feet, holding the lines together in well-built columns. And as they passed the stand on which stood the President of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, and answered the shouts acclaiming the Youth of Revolution, *one was filled with the conviction that, with this Youth, with its confidence, with its willingness to sacrifice itself for the cause of the workers, Soviet Russia is safe against all capitalists attacks.* Their faces, their answers to the shouts confirmed the mottoes on their multitudinous banners: *“Workers of Western Europe, we are ready to answer your call!” This is the youthful proletariat of Soviet Russia, which thinks not of itself alone, but of the WORLD proletariat!*

By the tens of thousands they marched past, one hundred thousand strong—workers, students, athletes—Russians from all the states of the Republic, Tartars, citizens of Buchara in their national costumes. It was an inspiring sight, this blending of many nationalities under the emblem of the Hammer and Sickle.

Moscow, Petrograd, Odessa, Tula, Niszhni-Novgorod, Kieff—in every Russian city, town and village, International Youth Day was celebrated—not as a day of demonstration of Russian Youth for Soviet Russia, but as a manifestation of Soviet Russia and Russia’s Youth as part of the World Revolution—the vanguard, the leaders—every ready to march when the Western proletariat calls.

Germany’s Youth Stands Ready for the Final Struggle.

But Soviet Russia’s youth does not stand alone in its militant spirit. In the other countries of Western Europe, the youth celebrated International Youth Day. True, these demonstrations were under other conditions: under the heel of fascism, under the watchful eye of capitalist police and spies. Germany’s youth stands next to the youth of Soviet Russia in militancy, boisterousness, contempt. The same bold, fearless spirit; the same willingness to fight. The Young Communists of Germany are the hope of the German revolution. They resemble the youth of Soviet Russia very closely. They have not copied: it is the spirit of Revolution that has permeated them and filled them with the understanding that nothing matters beyond the Revolution, the victory of the proletariat, the

overthrow of the bourgeoisie. Now they stand before the decisive moment: the bankrupt capitalist-socialist state has reached its goal—the struggle for power will begin. During the trying months, in which French imperialism has used all its brutal power in the Ruhr to suppress the workers, the break up the German State (with the aid of Stinnes and the social-democracy), the Young Communists have carried on an heroic fight, despite the greatest odds. They have faced danger and death. Many of them have been jailed and killed; and yet the fight goes on. Unafraid, the Young Communists, with the same contempt for the dying bourgeoisie, for their gendarmerie, their fascists, their nakedly brutal government stand ready for the final fight against French imperialism and German capitalist-socialist treachery. With the same contempt for death and suffering; the German Young Communists stand nearest to the Russian youth.

The Conference of the Enlarged Bureau of the Young Communist International demonstrated that these young revolutionists have a clear understanding of the principles for which they fight, of the strategy of revolutionary warfare, of the tactics that the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat entails. Some of them are the brilliant leaders of tomorrow: Russian boys, German and Austrian boys, a boy from Jugoslavia. Boys in years, but men in understanding: the World

Revolution is safe as long as they take the helm. They discussed trade unionism, union tactics, the struggle against fascism and capitalist war, the struggle for the protection of the youthful workers, as reactionary trade union leaders and capitalist politicians and professors cannot discuss them. These are no boys: they are full-grown men, marching side by side with the adult leaders of the Revolution.

The Importance of the Youth Movement.

The leaders of the Russian revolution realize the immense importance of the youth movement. Hence they cultivate it; they devote their time to it. Only youth is really susceptible to new ideas: on them is based the security and development of the revolution. But even more: "To be with the youth is an inspiration, a rejuvenation," Radek once said at a meeting of young workers, worker-students and soldiers. To be with them is to be in the company of the revolution personified. Out of them spring the energy, the new forces that break the bonds of the old and open the door to the New World, the World of Tomorrow!

The day is now arriving. The fascisti are sounding the signal. International Youth Day, the Young Communist International and the Communist International accept the challenge and rally the workers to Revolution, to Proletarian Emancipation!