

WORKING CLASS LEADERS THE NEED OF THE HOUR

By I. AMTER.

(Written in Tombs Prison.)

The workers of the United States have learned many lessons in the past few years. They have seen the American Federation of Labor in treacherous action at a time when leadership in struggle was needed. In the South, as well as in the North, one struggle after the other sabotaged and sold out by these traitors.

They have also witnessed the so-called "progressives," the Musteites of Brookwood College, who pretended to be "radical" and then knelt at the feet of the A. F. of L. and "confessed." "War to the death against the Communists and Bolsheviks—long live the fascist A. F. of L.!" is their war cry. These Musteites, mouthing radical phrases and "critical" of the A. F. of L., are the most dangerous enemies of the workers, since they use "progressive" working-class language, but lead the workers directly into the ranks of the fascist A. F. of L.

The socialist party—the social-fascists—with the trade union social-fascist Musteites—no longer even pretends to stand for the working class—but for all the people. They talk "humanity," "justice," etc. These petty-bourgeois liberals, fostered by the capitalist class to deceive and betray the workers, are doing their vile work in the unions, hand in hand with the Musteites. Fascists and social-fascists—open enemies of the workers—open tools of our class enemies!

The workers have the Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League—sufficient, and yet everywhere is the demand for clear, fighting working-class leadership. This can be supplied only from the midst of the revolutionary working class itself.

Workers must be trained for leadership in theory and practice. The

best workers must be selected for this purpose, those who show understanding and have stood the test in the struggle in the shops and unions, on the picket line, etc.

The Workers' School in New York with 2,000 students is the central school from which many working-class leaders have come for the tremendous job of organizing the 25,000,000 unorganized workers in this country, Negro and white, men and women, young and adult, and leading them in struggle. This struggle on the political and industrial field is tremendous—and were there more leaders the work of organization would proceed even more rapidly.

In the Communist Party and T. U. U. L. this need is keenly felt. Since the expulsion of the right-wing renegades and the carrying on of a real struggle against opportunism in the Communist ranks, the serious danger of this right-wing manifestation at this stage of the struggle, with the workers showing ever more willingness to organize and fight, has become outstanding.

Correctness in theory and practice! Practice strengthened by basic theory! This is what is needed by all—but especially by the new leadership that is demanded by the struggle.

In the T. U. U. L. this is a crying need as well. The old-type leadership in the unions, protected in its opportunism by the former right-wing leadership in the Party, cannot make the turn. The turn must be made—and many of these leaders of the industrial unions of the T. U. U. L. must be replaced by militant rank and filers.

The training of these rank and filers is the big job of the Workers' School.

A second task faces us in the struggle arising in the South. Negro and white workers in the steel,

mining, textile and tobacco industries must be trained to take over leadership—leadership unafraid to face Ku Klux Klan and night-riders—leadership capable of making clear to the workers the treachery of the A. F. of L. and Musteites—leadership that knows how to organize, lead and fight.

National Guardsmen's Letter

To the Rebel Guard:

I am a member of the 165th Infantry (the old 69th) and have read two or three issues of your paper, which was distributed at our armory. It has interested us very much as most of the things written in it are quite true.

Everybody from the buck privates to the officers know that the guard is purely a strike-breaking organization. As most of us are workers we certainly don't like the idea of breaking strikes that other workers may take part in.

There are a few things in your paper which I do not understand very well. For instance, what has

workers have little tradition of working class struggle. The working class, itself, in the South is comparatively new, just recruited from the mountaineers, hillbillies and farmers. Old traditions, remnants of the pre-civil war South are weighing down upon them. Illiteracy in most sections of the South is comparable with the Russia of the czar. The mill village owned by the tex-

City.

Russia or its defense to do with us? (Such questions will be answered in the Rebel Guard.—Editor.)

Conditions in the Guard are pretty bad. That is why your paper has made such a tremendous hit. I don't see why we are forced to buy dress uniforms and to pay for them out of our small pay checks. I bet there is plenty of graft for the officers. Besides uniforms we have to pay for dances and beer rackets and other affairs which make some of us forget the serious business we are really in.

I hope you continue to distribute your paper. I will write some more. Yours, A Worker in the Guard.

city and town.

A broad working-class educational system to teach workers to become fighters—to make them better fighters and leaders.

No more important task confronts the militant working class than working-class education for training fighters and leaders. It is the duty of every group of workers in the shops, all unions, all left-wing and progressive groups in the A. F. of L., all working-class fraternal organization and clubs, to make this an important item for discussion and decision.

These bodies of workers must not fail to participate through delegates in the Conference for Working Class Education, which will be held on Saturday, April 19, at the Workers' Center, 26 Union Square.

To make this conference a success means to push the revolution-

THE LABOR D WORKERS' F

By J. LOUIS ENGDAHL.

The tasks of the International Labor Defense draw it closely into the field of work of the Working Class Educational Conference organized under the direction of the Workers School and the Trade Union Unity League.

The International Labor Defense during 1929 averaged 6,480 members. The average for the first three months of 1930 was 8,950. The showing for March was 10,426.

This is the dues paying membership, around which is grouped those "carried on the books," the members of affiliated organizations, and the mass of close sympathizers.

This membership is organized in 475 branches, with 38 city central committees in 18 district organizations functioning under the direction of the national office in New York City.

The vast opportunities for developing the inner life of the I.L.D.

ary working-class movement forward at tremendous speed. It means to hasten the day when the workers of the United States will be organized into powerful industrial unions with effective, fighting leadership. It means that the Communist Party will even better than today be able to lead the rising spirit of the struggle; to build up the ranks of the Party and the organizations of the workers in the North and South; be able to give more assistance to the revolutionary working class of Latin America. It means to bring nearer the day of the revolutionary working class of the United States—the November 7 of the United States!

All success to the Conference for Working Class Education and its mission of spreading and teaching the principles and practice of Marxism-Leninism to the workers.