

Two Events in Working Class Education

By SAM DARCY.

IN cabling its commendations on the membership drive to our Party, the Communist International makes as a chief question, that of developing the new members theoretically in classes and study groups. This same emphasis on the need for working class education is evident in all of Lenin's writings. The attitude that theoretical study is of minor importance in revolutionary activity is a remnant of the social democratic and anarcho-syndicalist ideology; the former is always "practical" and is only confused by theory—the latter "does not believe in theory but in action!" A Marxist-Leninist Party always puts the question of working class education among the top questions which face us in the class struggle.

In the United States the Communist Party has during the past period made certain progress in expanding the movement for Marxist-Leninist education and also in clarifying it. The A. F. of L. which carried on capitalist propaganda under the pretense of workers education has dropped even this guise. The Musteites, are still conducting Brookwood Labor College but only because of the huge Garland fund subsidy which they obtained. The Socialist Party has the Rand School which now specializes in sex psychology and summer camps.

In contrast to this the Workers Schools movement, under the leadership of the Communist Party has made splendid progress. Where several years ago it consisted of one school of sixty students—today it has a Central School with full time training courses and branch schools in many of the larger cities in practically every part of the country but the South. The total attendance at all schools totals many thousands of workers.

The struggles of the workers are now increasing in every part of the country. Our revolutionary movement is experiencing considerable growth. The facilities for the training of functionaries, officers, and active workers and leaders must be increased.

The chief task is to establish a school in an industrial center of the South (possibly

Chattanooga or Birmingham). Negro and white Southern workers must be made to qualify as the builders of their own movement. Practical experience will be a great contributing factor but Marxist-Leninist education is an indispensable weapon. The difficulty in carrying out this task can be seen by the fact that great masses of Southern workers have never had the opportunity to learn to read and write. But the Southern workers have already shown their fighting capacity in Gastonia, New Orleans and elsewhere. The obstacles will be overcome. But the Northern workers must supply the funds to begin the work.

The Central School of the Communist Party last year turned away close to 400 students for lack of proper facilities; and it was able to entertain only a fraction of the applications which were made for the full time courses for the same reason. Seamen, migratory workers, farmers, etc., are unable to benefit from a working class education for lack of a self-study department in the Workers School itself.

In order to supply these needs a fund of \$10,000 is needed. Everyone must pitch in and help raise this fund. Every shoulder to the wheel! Get your organizations to contribute, make collections among your shop mates, contribute yourselves! Send all funds to Workers School Drive Committee, Alexander Trachtenberg, treasurer, 26 Union Square, N. Y. C.

Aside from the need for this fund, measures must be taken to increase the educational work of all militant labor organizations. By decision of the Trade Union Unity League a Working Class Education Conference has been called for April 19 at 2 p. m. at the large auditorium of the Workers School. All organizations are urged to send delegates. Two delegates for the first hundred members, one more for each additional hundred up to 400, and for all over that, 5 delegates. Send your credentials and requests for information to the Working class Education Conference, 26 Union Square, New York City.