

THE YOUNG WORKER

Published at 2517 Fullerton Ave. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. The Young Workers League of America, publishers. "Entered as second-class matter September 17, 1922, at the post office at Chicago, Illinois, under the act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. II.

February, 1923.

No. 2.

The Third Congress of the Young Communist International

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THE formal opening of the Third Congress of the Young Communist International took place on the night of December 5th at the Bolshe Theater. Over 2000 young Communists from the various Leagues in Moscow were present, besides the Young Communist League delegates and many Communist International and Red International of Trades Union delegates.

Speeches were made by Kalemín, president of the Soviet Republic, Bordiga, secretary of the Communist Party of Italy, Monmousseau of the Red Trade Unions of France; representatives from the red army and fleet; Shueller and Shatzkin for the Y. C. I., and representatives of the Moscow Y. C. L. Resolutions were presented by delegates from Germany, America, England, Czecho-Slovakia and others. Stormy applause and much singing accompanied the speeches.

After four hours of speeches, a concert was given and also an exhibition of proletarian culture. The session broke up at two A. M.

The real opening of the Congress (for work) was on December 6th at the Kremlin, the Fourth Congress of the Communist International having been completed.

Lazar Shatzkin reported for the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International, outlining the work of the various Leagues, including that of the Young Communist League of America and the Young Workers League of America. He characterized educational activities of the Y. W. L. as "general" and also referred to the loose form of our organization. His report was accepted.

Among the important matters that came up at the Y. C. I. Congress were that of drafting an economic program for the youth of the working class. There seems to be a general agreement and understanding of the necessity of laying out an international economic program based on the general and specific conditions of the youth in the various countries. Very little opposition is noticeable against the formation of a program including immediate demands. In this program will be shown the difference between the Social-reformist youth organizations and the Young Communist International and its affiliated sections. The Social-democratic youth bodies formulate demands, and that is all; the Young Communist International fights for them.

The basis of the economic program will be the Communist reorganization of youth labor—which, briefly, is explained as agitating and aiming for treating the youth up to 18 years of age from an educational viewpoint, not from a wage-slave one. The Young Communist International makes its demands not in the needs of the capitalist class, but on the needs of the working class youth. The Y. C. I. although driving for

a betterment, if possible, of the working youth on the basis of capitalist society, realizes that nothing substantial can be gotten for the youth, or any of the workers, while capitalism lasts. Nevertheless, it makes these economic demands, and will fight for them, rallying the youth to the slogan of communist re-organization of youth labor. Through the struggle for these demands, the youth will come to see the hopelessness of attaining anything under capitalism, and will then battle for revolutionary ends and purposes, the overthrow of capitalist society and government.

Now that Communist Parties have been established in nearly all countries, the role of the Young Communist International and the Leagues supporting and affiliated to it, changes somewhat. Where there were no Communist Parties, or only weak ones, the Young Communist Leagues, for the most part, carried on the general revolutionary political struggle, and was, in fact, the real leader of the masses. Now, the Communist Party can and will take over the main political guidance of the masses, and the Young Communist Leagues, or Leagues working under the guidance of the Young Communist International, can carry on the work best fitted to them—that of education of the youth.

At this Congress, the question of education, the best ways and means of formulating and carrying out Communist education and propaganda was fully dealt with. Of this more later.

Besides myself as Observer for the Young Workers League of America, there were several delegates present from the Young Communist League of America. As Observer for the Young Workers League of America I was seated as fraternal delegate with voice but no vote.

The question of the American youth movement was taken up and discussed. Reference was made to our educational work as well as the organizational structure of our League and the manner in which we were carrying on propaganda.

I shall report in more detail in later articles, as at this writing the Congress is not over. I have had long talks with delegates from almost every country represented here and have exchanged views, the result of which I shall use for the basis of articles to appear in the future issues of the *Young Worker*. Also, shall go into more detail in regard to the various points of the program now under discussion here, such as economic struggle, educational activities, trade union activities and the like.

A point of great interest to our members, and one that should be discussed, is the question of our making application for admittance to the Young Communist International. As with the other points, I shall take this up more in detail in my future articles.