

Mexican Rent Strike Led by Communists

NOTE: Here is the Second Article by our Mexican Correspondent, Bertram D. Wolfe, on the Second Congress of the Mexican Communist Party:

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE
(Special to "The Worker")

MEXICO CITY.—Contact with the masses of the workers was secured by the Mexican Communist Party largely as the result of the formation of the Unions of Tenants and the initiating of a nation-wide rent strike under Communist direction.

Everywhere, the members of both the red and yellow unions, and their wives, and the unorganized workers lined up with these Tenants' Unions. The governments, the officials of the Yellow Unions and of the Red Unions, united against these activities because they feared the effect upon the masses of the Communist leadership.

The government attacked the public meetings of the Tenants' Unions with military force, and the union leaders formed rival tenants' unions. In Vera Cruz 90 men and women were arrested and are still in jail. But the movement there is powerful enough to support a Communist daily.

The National Committee of the Mexican Communist Party attacks the Parliamentary leftism of the party and proposes parliamentary activity in the forthcoming elections.

It reports its activities among the Peasants that have resulted in its assuming leadership in two states and developing a strong influence in three others. It proposes that the party initiate a movement for the Federation of all Peasants' Communes (there are over a thousand in the nation) into a national organization.

It reports that early this year the Union of Painters and Sculptors under the leadership of Mexico's greatest painter, Diego Rivera, adopted a Communist program and affiliated with the Red Trade Unions. As a result many intellectuals are joining the party and nuclei are being formed among the student bodies. (Hitherto the party has had almost no intellectual elements).

The Revolutionary Communist Party of Guanajuato has applied for admission and the committee recommends acceptance. It also recommends a study of growing unemployment of the problem of ending the workers' against Fascism, of protecting the peasants of certain localities against governmental disarming movements.

Fraternal Delegate Carrillo rises to report for the Young Communist League, which during the preceding year under the leadership of one Valadas, has demanded independence from the party and compelled the party to yield.

"Our convention was held on April 8 and 9," he begins. "We come here to acknowledge our errors of the past year, to retract our decision on independence from the party, to apply for reaffiliation with the Communist Party of Mexico as the Mexican Section of the Communist International, and to report that as a pledge of Communist good faith, we have expelled the elements that led us to our un-Communist actions of the past year."

He outlines the activities of the league. Most interesting is his report on the anti-militarist Campaign of the Communist Youth. "Our principal anti-militarist activities are directed against the present recruiting system. Young peasants, not yet firmly rooted in the agricultural life of their communities, are recruited in sections where they know their fellow peasants, sympathize with the movements for confiscation of the land, know and are opponents of the big land owners, and realize the necessity of acquiring land if they are to find a future for themselves.

"They are then moved into other sections where they do not know the peasants nor the owners nor the local conditions, and used there against their brother peasants. Against this form of recruiting and moving to other localities, the Communist Youth is beginning to direct its chief efforts."

The delegate from Victoria rose to report that he had been sent to the convention not only as a representative of a Communist Local but also from an organization of his whole community into a "League for the Protection of the People," which had been formed to fight an irrigation tax of two pesos per head and month, which irrigation scheme would aid only the rich. The league has been so successful that the tax had been withdrawn and the League is now turning its attention to the problem of the redistribution of the land. His fellow peasants in the League have asked him to go to the Communist Party Convention and find out whether the party thought they had been right in their activities.

The delegate from Jalapa told how the "Yellow" leaders there had forbidden their rank and file to join the Tenants' League. "But we proceeded to organize their wives," he reported, "and now the men of Jalapa are in a yellow union and the women are all in a red union."



MANUEL RAMIREZ
Secretary of the Mexican Communist Party and Outstanding Figure of the Convention

Among the Magazines

May issues of working class magazines are always the best, and all the effort of their publishers usually goes into them. But the May issue of the "YOUNG WORKER," official organ of the Young Workers League, surpasses by far the best that they have yet done. The high caliber of the paper is more than maintained. We find there articles by J. Louis Engdahl on "The Young Workers in Politics"; a splendid exposition of the aims of young Communists all over the world written by Premier Nikolai Lenin especially for the "Young Worker." Martin Abern, delegate to the congress of the Young Communist International, describes the sort of leagues he visited in his tour of the country, and Oliver Carlson continues to write his excellent articles on Literature and the workers. The chief article is the splendid one by Sydney Bloomfield on May Day. The ten cents you spend on the magazine will certainly be worth it and you can obtain it from any member of the league or from the national office, 2517 Fullerton Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Liberator Exposes Burns

One of the most amazing exposes of American political life is to be found in the *May "Liberator."* It is contained in an article by Robert Minor entitled "The Kaiser's Mr. Burns" and it proves rather conclusively that William J. Burns, head of the Department of Justice's Bureau of Investigation organized a spy service in the United States for the German Kaiser before the U. S. declared war against "the Huns."

Besides this most remarkable article, the *Liberator* contains articles by Eugene V. Debs, Scott Nearing and Ralph Goll on the Michigan trial, a brilliant analysis of the failure of the Socialist Party by John Pepper, Joseph Freeman contributes a splendid review of Genevieve Taggard's book of poems and also a wonderfully satirical article on the late murder of Dr. King. Stories, poems, articles, cartoons de Luxe, all that one could wish in a radical artistic magazine. It may be obtained on all news stands at 20c. a copy.

Foster Writes About His Trial

The *Labor Herald* is usually awaited with eagerness by all militants in the trade unions and all those who are interested in the progressive development of the American Working class movement. The May issue, just out, will quadruply repay its reading and filing away for reference. William Z. Foster heads the list of contributors with a lengthy article on his "late" trial, in which he gives a keen analysis, not only of the trial but of the issues involved. There are articles from the field of action: Wallace Metcalfe, from the Steel Workers convention; Tom Mann from the Rand, South Africa; Joseph Manley on the progressives among the miners and the New York Food Workers. John Dorey and Thomas Myerscough tell about the program of the progressive miners and their connection with the R. I. L. U. Cris Ware shows plainly the necessity of Labor amalgamating its forces by pointing to the recent amalgamations of forces by the capitalists. Arise writes from Moscow, Rose Wortis tells of the Needle Workers' International, Earl Browder points out the comic antics of the Gompers' family, and J. Louis Engdahl tells of the sweep which the Labor Party idea is making in American Labor circles. How anyone can miss this (or any other) issue of this invaluable paper we fail to understand. The price is 15c. and can be obtained from any militant or from the Trade Union Educational League, 106 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill.

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