

"MONKEY-WARD" MAIL ORDER HOUSE SPREADS CONTENTMENT BUNK

Young Girls See Need for Unionization and Better Conditions

(By Young Worker Correspondent.)
BALTIMORE, Md.—"Loyalty Shown by Ward's Employees," thus writes the October Forward (Ward's official magazine). This is demonstrated says this cheat, by the willingness of the employees to do just a little more than is expected of them each day—not for themselves of course, but for Ward.

Now let us see why this should be so. There are about 3,000 young workers employed at the Baltimore branch of the Montgomery-Ward mail order house. Thousands of young workers are slaving away in order to put up profits for this concern.

Hours of Work.
When the boys and girls are first employed they are told that the hours are supposed to be from 8 A. M. to 4 P. M. or in the mail opening department from 7 A. M. to 4 P. M. with 15 minutes off for lunch. However, when you work there more than a day you find that 15 minutes are shown on your labor time each day. This doesn't sound like much but if you figure it out for an entire year it amounts to quite a few extra hours of labor.

Mail Opening Department.
A good example of the conditions at the plant can be seen in the mail opening department. Here the young girls must come to work at 7 A. M. to open the mail so that the other departments can get the orders. Each girl is supposed to open three pounds of mail an hour. They open the envelope, put the order in the letter and sort it. The girls are rushed—the speed-up system is in full swing. This is accomplished by making some girls supervisors and assistant supervisors to keep girls "busy." These girls keep their running smoothly for Ward's profit.

Low Wage, Increased Profit.
The Department of Labor figures show that in the mail order house, while the wages decreased the profits increased. Are we going to stand for such conditions permanently? The young workers in the mail order houses must be organized and must fight for better conditions. The union for the mail order house workers is the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association. The union must carry on a campaign to organize the unorganized young workers. The young workers in "Monkey-Wards" must rally 'round and fight for the following demands:

1. No layoffs during slack season. 4-hour day, 5-day week for all young workers with full pay.
2. No wages lower than \$16 per week for all young workers.
3. Four weeks vacation each year with full pay.
4. Abolition of record system and speed-up system.
5. Organization into the union.
6. Longer rest periods.

Young Worker! You too may want to tell your story. Write it up and send it to the YOUNG WORKER! Tell your fellow workers the truth! Organize!

HEARN'S YOUNG WORKERS DEMAND LIVING WAGE AND SHORTER HOURS

Working Youth Conference in New York Scheduled for May

(By Young Worker Correspondent.)
NEW YORK CITY.—The District Number 2 of the Young League of America, is carrying on a campaign, to organize the exploited young workers in Hearn's department store in New York. The Young Workers put forth demands to better the conditions of the girls employed in that store.

To us it is a known fact, that the young workers are much more exploited than the adult workers. Still it was unbelievable that in New York, where the cost of living is much higher than in any other place in the U. S. we will find young workers being paid such low wages.

Conditions in Hearn's Store.
There are from 1,200 to 1,500 young workers employed in that store. The wages range from \$12 to \$14 per week. Let us explain how these young workers are so miserably paid.

Let us explain how these young workers are so miserably paid. And yet this is the situation. The girls are not only making very little money, but they are also being exploited by making them work overtime without getting paid for it. They have to work the week for 44 hours, and only on Saturdays and Sundays.

But the most important task to my opinion for this conference will be the question of arousing the whole working class of the United States against the criminal exploitation of the young workers in this country which boasts so much about the high wages the American workers are paid. And as much as this is not true in regards to the adult workers, it is less true yet when conditions of the young workers are being dealt with.

It will be up to this conference to arouse the consciousness of the young workers, so that they realize how much more they are exploited than the adult worker. And at the same time draw the attention of the organized adult workers to the criminal negligence on their part by keeping the young workers out of the unions, and by neglecting to demand better conditions for the youth. They must realize that in the long run such

conditions affect their wages, hours, etc.
The attention of the young workers all over the country must be drawn to this conference. And by putting up demands that concern the everyday struggles of the young workers, the conference will succeed in drawing their attention and will have accomplished a big task in making the next step towards organizing the young workers in the United States.

Demonstrate May Day Against Militarism



The Bosses' Weapon Against the Workers!

MAY DAY! A SIGNAL FOR THE U.S. FRONT AGAINST MILITARISM

Huge Demonstrations Arranged by Socialist Communist and Young Communist Internationals

LEAVE the factories on May First, the workers' international holiday! Join your hands in demonstration against the capitalist system—against imperialism! These cries will throuth the world from the throats of millions of workers and peasants. In the Americas, in the domain of the Monroe doctrine, in Europe, in the near and far east, the struggling masses will join hands with the revolutionary working class of the imperialist nations and demonstrate their defiance against imperialism. Throuth the world the banners of the Communist and Young Communist Internationals will be raised high. In the United States the Workers (Communist) Party and the Young Workers (Communist) League are organizing mass demonstrations from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The young workers will attend these demonstrations en masse.

May Day is also a native American holiday. It was born in the womb of the class struggle of this country. May Day became a symbol of struggle and victory for the American working class during the agitation for the 8-hour day which culminated in the "legal" murders of the "famous" Haymarket anarchists in 1886. May Day was first adopted by the American Federation of Labor as its official labor day. Later as a sign of the unity of the bureaucracy with the capitalist government the September Labor Day was accepted as the legal workers' holiday. What a fate, a bosses' government deciding upon a workers' holiday! May Day is the real holiday of the American workers and the workers of the world!

May Day 1926 is of great significance. Already the temporary and partial stabilization of capitalism is beginning to tremble. Capitalism could not rehabilitate itself for any lengthy period. The signs of the leftward movement of the petty bourgeoisie are on the order of the day. The results in the colonies make the financial barons sweat cold blood. The victory of the proletariat and peasantry in the Soviet Union stands out as a beacon light to the oppressed of all lands.

The American working youth, as unskilled labor, as a doubly exploited section of the working class, is already showing signs of motion against capitalism. Youth strikes have taken place; the youth is in the forefront of the heroic Passaic Textile Strikers, in the N. Y. Furriers' Strike, the East Ohio conference and the pending working youth conference. The voices of the young miners are now being raised to awake their older brothers and fathers to the renewed offensive of the coal operators. The

united front of all young students and farmers must conduct an honest, serious, militant struggle. That is the central point of the demand of the working youth on this day. A whole network of international conferences must be organized in the country which will start the campaign against militarism.

LONG LIVE THE MAY OF THE WORKERS!
FORWARD TO THE FRONT AGAINST MILITARISM!

STRIKING YOUNG FURRIERS NEAR COMPLETE VICTORY

(By Young Worker Correspondent.)
NEW YORK CITY.—Under the previous administration of the Furriers Union the corrupt union officials lined up with the manufacturers in keeping the young workers out of the union and thus making potential scabs of the youth.

When the newly elected administration came into office it saw the necessity of opening the doors to the young workers who now work in the organized shops. The present strike shows how necessary this measure was. The young workers are not afraid of the policemen's clubs being used against the pickets. As victory draws closer the young fur strikers stand firmer than ever.

NEFFS LEAGUE FIGHTS FOR PROTECTION FOREIGN-BORN

NEFFS, Ohio.—The Y. W. L. here is very vigorous and is functioning in a good way. The mine where the League has its nucleus is noted for its reactionary officials. When the question of the protection of the foreign-born workers came up before the local League was well organized for the affair. They had a spirited meeting and the result was that the local union was represented at the conference for the protection of the foreign born workers. A non-League young miner was one of the delegates, who has since been gotten to join the League. How's that for work and our League is only one month old.

conditions affect their wages, hours, etc.
The attention of the young workers all over the country must be drawn to this conference. And by putting up demands that concern the everyday struggles of the young workers, the conference will succeed in drawing their attention and will have accomplished a big task in making the next step towards organizing the young workers in the United States.

COAL OPERATORS FIGHT FOR 'BACK TO 1917 SCALE' MOVE

Union-Smashing Drive Felt by Young Coal Diggers Through Mass Unemployment

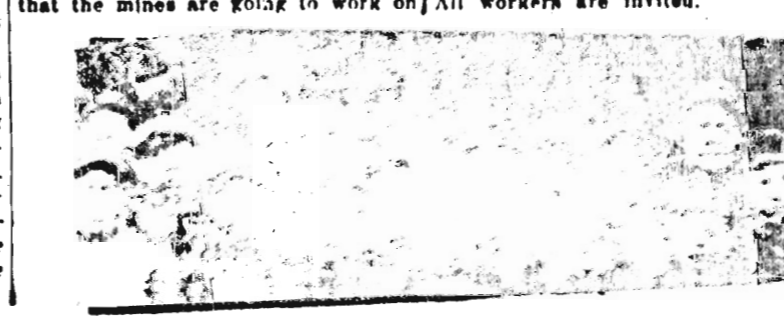
YOUNG MINERS STAND FIRM

(By a Young Coal Digger.)
AVELLA, Pa.—I want to write to you about the conditions which exist in our mining town. Today in our town there are 1,100 miners out of work. Four hundred are only working 2 days a week. Avella is a small mining town and has no other industry. The mines that are now shut down have not been working steady for a long time and now they are completely shut down. The Jefferson Gas Coal Co. shut down on April 25th. It employed 200 miners when it was working. The Burgettstown Coal Co. with 50 men, the Donahue Coal Co. with 150 men, the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co. with 700 men, have all shut up shop, while the Ligonier Coal Co. works 400 men, two days a week.

Mass Unemployment.
This is a most deplorable situation in this part of the country for as I told you before we have no other industries and the cost of living is high. A pound of meat which can be bought in Pittsburgh for 20 cents costs here 45 cents a pound. A lot of young workers are affected by this.

Miners Must Show Militancy.
In some places the miners' locals are not even meeting. Now don't you think it would be better if the locals held a general strike and the miners fought against the coal operators who are doing? But the reactionary officials of the U. M. W. will not allow us to do it.

Campaign of the Operators.
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STRIKEBREAKING NATIONAL GUARD GETS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO RECRUIT WORKING

Defend Minnesota from Foreign Invader Spread

REAL PURPOSE TO SHOOT STRIKING WORKERS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The Federal Government spends \$250,000 a year to maintain National Guard units in the Cities. Every method of force and cajolery has been used to recruit young men into this strikebreaking organization. Until Colonel Mitchell, heroic "critic," of the U. S. navy, came here and threw a scare into the local business men the danger of attack from enemies' aircraft, that the Chamber of Commerce began to take action. In addition to Colonel Dr. A. D. Hirschfelder, department of pharmacology of the

HAWAIIAN FARM LABOR SUFFER UNDER U. S. YOKE

HORTON, Mass.—Comrade Walter Trumbull speaking before a mass meeting here outlined the situation of the agricultural laborers in Hawaii. The worker labors ten hours a day under the blazing sun in a cramped position and for this work he gets the pittance of \$1.05 a day, with a raise of 5 cents a day after the first three months.

He lives in squalid filthy huts with dirt floors and thatched roofs which are often washed away by the heavy rains of that country. He lives free but the thatch must be replaced at his own expense. The huts are large but they accommodate about twenty families.

(Continued on page 2)

Asst. Secy. of War Looks at Pittsburgh

Is O. K. for Morgan's Next War

(By GEORGE PAPOUN.)

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—In spite of all the howling going on that the United States wants peace...

Soviet Invites Student Tours

Delegation Committee Gets Moscow Cable

The American Student Delegation to Russia reports some definite progress in its plans.

In order that the group may be in actual contact with conditions in Russia as long as possible...

The delegation is limited to twenty wide-awake, open-minded graduates and under-graduate students...

There is to be no line drawn on the basis of race, color, or creed.

Need for a Weekly Young Worker Seen in Struggles of the Youth

Discussion on Young Worker

THE Young Workers League has now changed its activities. It is now becoming the organization of the masses of young workers.

A few words about the contents. There is no doubt that the Young Worker is not perfect...

National Guard Strike-breaker

(Continued from page 1)

however, the should be killed gradually and gently!

They promise the young recruits many high-sounding inducements. They promise "15 days leave" when called to the summer training camps...

Sanitary conditions do not exist here. I have been here a few weeks and I have yet to see a sweeper come and clean the floors.

Our Demands. Most of the workers are youths. Girls work on the machines also.

- 1. An 8-hour day. 2. One hour for lunch. 3. Five minutes for wash up before quitting time.

are banks, Standard Oil, Street railways and other powerful capitalist trusts and companies.

Workers and Farmers Answer! In the face of the solid front of capital on the question of the military...

LOS ANGELES, Cal.—The Young Workers' League of Los Angeles presented their first living newspaper to a crowded hall on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Young Worker.

A casual glance at the list of corporations supporting the plan will convince any worker or farmer that the same group which exploits them economically...

At this sounds attractive to inexperienced young workers. In St. Paul however, where a similar "St. Paul Plan" has been in effect for a number of years...

The San Francisco league has arranged a dance on the 17th of April or the benefit of the Young Worker.

Pacific Coast League Pushes Forward

LOS ANGELES, Cal.—The Young Workers' League of Los Angeles presented their first living newspaper to a crowded hall on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Young Worker.

A very successful anti-religious mass meeting was held by the Los Angeles league on the first night of the Jewish holiday Passover.

The Fort Bragg local has sent in \$10 as the proceeds of their affair for the national office.

Baltimore Youth Plan Factory Campaign and other Activities

By MARTIN REED.

BALTIMORE Md.—An energetic campaign has been started to raise 100 subs for the Young Worker by April 25.

The agit prop department in conjunction with the Party Agitprop have organized a study class in A. B. C. of Communism.

On April 23 the Second Anniversary of the Young Workers (Communist) League of Baltimore will be celebrated by a concert and mass meeting.

will be distributed at the factory gates. A good pioneer group is functioning under the leadership of Comrade Klitt.

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Young Worker Correspondents are on Job in Denver

DENVER, Colo.—At the last regular meeting of the Young Workers' League a decision was made to hold a picnic on Sunday, June 6.

They also elected a committee to act in conjunction with the Workers' Party committee, which is arranging for a monster May Day celebration to be held on Sunday evening, May 2.

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Tasks of St. Paul League

By Newman Dunbar

The greatest task before the St. Paul League is to break through isolation—to gain new young workers from the shops into the League.

The League members who also belong to the party, have raised this slogan in their respective branches: "A League Unit Wherever There is a Party Unit."

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Young Worker Correspondents, Read!

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8-Hour Day for Youth at Chicago Screw Company

By Young Worker Correspondent.

CHICAGO.—Located in this city is a factory which due to its location in same should have a little publicity.

I work nine long hours every day, five days a week. Start at seven in the morning and quit at 4:30 P. M. and get a half hour for dinner.

Our Demands. Most of the workers are youths. Girls work on the machines also.

- 1. An 8-hour day. 2. One hour for lunch.

KOSTROMA AND BOSTON - - By J. W.

The task of initiating international "Smithka" between various districts of the Russian Komsomols and the European and American Leagues has recently been undertaken.

Our Boston district is connected with the Kostroma gubernia. A couple of weeks ago upon invitation, I had the opportunity to attend the Kostroma Komsomol district conference.

Now the town is located 12 hours ride from Moscow. It has a population of 100,000. The town itself is practically a waste-land with the surrounding area a peasant country.

the name of the E. C. Y. C. I. and especially from the American League—and our Boston district. Formerly, I became a voting delegate of the Congress.

The Congress itself had 180 delegates, 4 of those from the principal city and the rest from the various counties. The work of the Congress was of the most educative and illuminating character.

In the evenings we visited a "three generation get-together" where the functionaries of the party, trade unions, Komsomols and Pioneers were all present—several hundred in all.

That evening a mass meeting, admission tickets having been distributed—was held in the factory section. There were between 1,300 and 1,800 young workers present.

had gathered these Kostroma young factory workers together to hear of the conditions in America and of the activity of the American Young Communists.

At the close of the translation of the report, the district secretary, Comrade Gusef, made a speech, in reply closing with the presentation of a large red banner to the Boston district of the American League.

GREAT applause greeted the presentation of each of these as the speakers pointed out that the Russian young workers realize the difficult task of fighting American imperialism but pledging their unlimited support to us in our efforts to make a "World October"—each speaker emphasizing the importance of firmer and closer relationship between their gubernias and Boston.

In answering these, I assured them that our members' knowledge of their fighting spirit and the sacrifices they have suffered for the revolution, would spur us on in our activity—that these symbols of internationalism would be transmitted to the Boston young workers and their leader—the Y. W. L.—and assuring them of the closest contact in the future.

In addition to these many letters were received for our Boston comrades which must be the occasion of a great meeting in Boston.

Comrades—this living experience of the advantages of connecting up our Leagues—the inspiration one receives from coming in contact with these young workers in their everyday life—the problems which were being discussed and decided upon by the Komsomol congress—all of these things benefit us. On the other hand, our Russian comrades have read and heard of America—of Europe—of other Communist Youth organizations—their experience—our experience—the events in America—the dominant imperialist nation in the world—the life of the young workers in the shops—all of these things are of interest to our Kostroma comrades.



YOU ARE IN THE THIRD ANNUAL National Builders Campaign Young Worker and Young Comrade Subs Are 40 Points For a Trip to Moscow (Described in THE BOOK. Get one from your literature agent or send for one.)

RED CARTOONS A Prize of the First American Proletarian Art Book with 100 Points. A BUST OF LENIN With Every 500 Points.

Table with columns: GET THE POINT!, Subscriptions, Rate, THE DAILY WORKER, THE WORKERS MONTHLY, In Chicago, Elsewhere.

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Editorials

MAY DAY AGITATION

THE central point of our May Day agitation is the need for the united front of the young workers, farmers and students' organizations in the struggle against capitalist militarism. On a minimum program for an honest struggle against militarism such a united front can be established.

Naturally, the young workers must strive to assume hegemony over such a movement. But we must labor under no illusions that all the divergent elements attracted to such a united front will go an equal distance in the realization of even a partial program.



THE Y. C. I.

A PROPER understanding of the role of the Y. C. I. is one of the fundamentals of our movement. The Young Communist International has grown very much and has gained much political experience and Bolshevik revolutionary traditions.

YOUNG COMRADES IN PARTY WORK

By Fannie Plotkin. WE all know that the age that a member is admitted to the Young Workers' League is between 15 and 24. After 24 a League member can drop out and put most of his or her energies into the party work.

Subscribe!

What May Day Means to the Young Workers

By SAM DARCEY.

THE struggle for world revolution and the building of a new society after it, begins with the adult workers and ends with the youth. So is it proven that when we estimate the progress of the struggle on each succeeding May Day.

May Day, 1926, finds the youth reaching consciousness. For the first time in American history there is a distinct current of struggle, among the oppressed young workers. Why should this be so?

Capitalism under no circumstances will sacrifice any part of its profits—this is the basis of the society under which we live. Today capitalism has entered the final stage, imperialism. During this period exploitation reaches a grand scale indeed. And the profits following from such robbery are greater than can be figured without the help of adding machines.



May Day! The Workers Challenge to Capitalism!

It makes them uneasy. They look for methods of counteracting it and they find two such.

First, there is what they term the "key worker." This key worker is

the skilled organized worker whose unions always threaten to become revolutionary organs. In the United States, thanks to the effective work that Gompers and his crew did there

are only two and one-half million organized workers. If a sufficient number of these could be bribed by slightly higher wages the bosses would have an effective tool against the thir-

ty-two million unorganized workers. They tried it and it worked. What are the results for the youth. First the bribe must be paid for. It is paid in a refusal on the part of the organized workers in the skilled trades to admit young workers. Witness the plumbers' helpers, glass workers, car builders, etc. It is paid in a refusal to consider the wage conditions of the young workers when the agreements with the bosses are made.

The second method for countering possible revolutionary developments is that of building greater military resources. For this purpose "Citizens' Military Training Camps" to draw the working youth, Reserve Officers' Training Corps to draw the student youth, the many boy and girl scout organizations to draw in the younger children have been established.

The capitalist class realizes that the contradictions within the system are beginning to carry too many evil signs. They bribe the skilled workers on the one hand at the expense of the unskilled and the youth and they win the youth to their military forces to quell possible uprisings of the downtrodden workers.

Are they succeeding? Let us be honest. Their first measure can succeed only very temporarily, and signs

of the growing militarism in this country prove that the second step is more serious. Their military strength is based on about seventy-five thousand officers in training to support a million.

May Day we take stand for ourselves—and our youth—and for ourselves—and our youth—that they have done so well drawn from our own ranks. We stand by and watch and grow! Or will we take measures to counteract them. The latter must be our policy on this May Day taken against the oligarchs.

Against Capitalism! Against Militarism! Against discrimination against young workers!

For a Workers' and Peasants' Government!

And carry them to...



The Enlarged Executive of the Young Communist International

By JOHN WILLIAMSON.

The reports, discussions, etc. of the recent sessions of the E. C. of the Y. C. I. were of a most practical character, dealing concretely with some of the immediate questions facing the international. The Bolshevikization of the League was the essence of the reports and discussions, although the phrase itself was hardly used—the phrase being transferred into life—methods and activities thru which to reach the broad masses of young workers and bring them under our influence and into our ranks.

Present General Situation. The offensive of the bosses especially hit the young workers. This was seen in the form of wage cuts, growing unemployment, attempts to raise the voting age of the youth, etc.

As a reaction to this there was on a world scale (specifically in Europe) a leftward trend. The bourgeoisie was quick to recognize this and 1925 saw a

systematic, conscious struggle on the part of the bourgeoisie to win the youth.

This was expressed in the various international conventions of bourgeois youth organizations as well as in various countries where the problem of the youth was tackled and attempts made to enroll the working youth in their ranks on the basis of economic-cultural and social demands. Although they make no real fight to achieve these demands it is significant for us where they tackle the problem.

Another angle of this same situation is the position of the trade unions. After years of fruitless efforts to get the trade unions to pay attention to the young workers we find a new attitude in 1925.

In Germany the Christian Unions as well as the regular trade unions calling conferences to take up the question as well as practical steps to organize the youth. In Britain the campaign

of the Y. C. I. for unionization is meeting with favor not only from the membership but also the leadership of the trade unions.

This was accomplished thru our energetic campaigns and the recognition by the trade unions of the drift of the young workers to the left, as well as a realization that the adult workers no longer possessed a monopoly thru skill, etc.

The past year has seen a decided change in the Young Socialist International. Very heavy membership losses are recorded in all countries except England. The rank and file are realizing the necessity of unity and successful united front organization has resulted, such as the various Young Workers' Delegations to Soviet Russia. Here the young workers see a contrast between the betterment of the conditions of the Russian Young Workers as against the worsening of their conditions in their respective capitalist countries.

They see the practical results of the Dictatorship of Proletariat.

The past year has seen great upheavals in the colonies, especially in China. Great success has been attained by the Y. C. I. especially in the building of a strong Y. C. I. in China.

The Present Situation in the Y. C. I. and Lessons to be Drawn.

Generally speaking, most of our leagues have greater political influence than organizational. There has been a tendency towards mechanical application of policy and schematism.

Our organizational policy must be to base the Communist Youth Leagues upon the large industries, organized upon the basis of shop nuclei. Street nuclei are also necessary. Too small a part of our membership is from the large and basic industries. The reorganization has been carried out too mechanical and was not attended by reorganization of our entire activi-

ties. This must be radically changed.

It is necessary that the inner life of our Leagues be enriched with the inclusion of lighter and cultural features. This is not a neglect of other basic activities—but a rounding out of our entire life. Less party politics and more youth activities are needed.

The broadest possible methods must be adopted to reach the young workers, special attention being paid to the non-political organizations of the youth, like sports, etc.

One of the most effective methods, which must be improved and extended, by reaching the young workers, is economic trade union work. This must be much more concrete and on a broader basis.

Especially attention must be given to getting the trade unions themselves to take up the problems of reaching the youth. The calling of conferences by the T. U.'s is necessary.

More concrete participation in

the everyday struggle with specific demands is needed.

The calling of young workers conferences as broad as possible is becoming a must which should be linked with industrial campaigns.

The interesting of the young workers and ultimately of their own delegations to let Russia must be intensified.

The Plenum also dealt such important questions as Colonial, Sport, Agriculture, Children.

Meaning for American League. All of these general demands found their practical application in the decision on the American League.

Never before was such an energetic and thorough study made in America. As a result we found the key to many of our present problems. This must be the devoted attention of our League member and applied given immediately to the present situation and to the future going forward in our work.

More concrete participation in work.

Trumbull Meets Draws Near

NEW YORK CITY.—On Sunday, April 24, the Young Workers' League will give a reception and dance to Walter Trumbull, worker and soldier, just released from prison for fighting the imperialist aims of our oppressors within the ranks of the army. The valiant work of Walter Trumbull and Paul Crouch (who is still being held in jail) is of the utmost importance to the entire working class. The united voice of the working class forced our imperialists to reduce the original sentence of Paul Crouch and Walter Trumbull from 40 years and 26 years to three years and one year, respectively. Let us now together unite to struggle against militarism and im-

perialism by making this reception the start for such a campaign. Come en masse and give this valiant fighter of our cause a fitting welcome.

THE VICTIMS OF INTERNATIONAL WHITE TERROR

MOSCOW, U. S. B. R.—[ra- The chairman of the Communist International, Zinoviev, included in his report on the Enlarged E. C. of the Y. C. I. figures on the work of white terror in the comparatively calm year of 1925. According to his statements in 38 countries 40,451 workers were arrested, 30,286 injured, 4,553 murdered and tortured to death, of which 1,000 alone in Bulgaria.

LENIN'S CORNER

Devoted to the Propaganda of Leninism



THE POPULIST DOCTRINE

THE first fight of the Marxians in Russia was against the common revolutionary theory of Narodnik, the Populists. Lenin characterizes this doctrine as follows: "The liberation movement of the Narodniks was to a certain extent a coherent, unified doctrine. It denied capitalist domination in Russia, it denied the role of the factory and shop workers as the vanguard of all poor people, it denied the importance of the political revolution and of the bourgeois political liberties; and they preached a Socialist upheaval arising from the village association of the peasants with its petty production. Of this coherent doctrine there are left only fragments now, but in order to analyze it

correctly in the present discussions, it is necessary to keep in mind the general fundamental doctrine of our Socialist Revolutionists, who have inherited their doctrine from the Narodniks.

"The man of the future in Russia is the peasant—so though the Narodniks, and this point of view was a necessary consequence of the belief in the village community as something socialistic, and the doubt about capitalist development in Russia. The Marxians thought otherwise: the man of the future in Russia is the worker, and the development of Russian capitalism, both in industry and in agriculture, confirms this opinion more and more. The workers' movement in Russia has now been recognized, and the difference of opinion about the peasant's movement is becoming clearer every day. To the Narodniks, the peasants' movements mean a refutation of Marxism; for them it is a movement which indirectly works towards Socialist liberation; they do not recognize bourgeois political liberty; they do not arise from large-scale production, but from petty agriculture. For the Narodniks the peasant movement is also a real, true Socialist and direct Socialist movement. The Narodnik believe in the peasant commune and their popular anarchism arises inevitably from such views.

But to the rural idyll of the Narodniks belonged also peasant handicraft in the Russian villages. Lenin says: "Let us then take the Narodnik idea about Russian 'kustar' (handicraftman). The Narodnik describes his sorry situation, his miserable productive condition and his un-

believable expropriation by the middle man, who puts in his pocket the lion's share of his work, and lets him work sixteen and eighteen hours a day for a few cents. And his conclusion be: these sorry conditions and the exploitation of the handicraft labor is the reverse side of these social conditions. But the 'kustar' is no wage worker; this is the good side. We must preserve the good side and abolish the wrong side; for this reason there is necessary a cooperative cartel. This is the conclusion of the Narodniks."

Then Lenin goes on to describe the capitalist features of the production of peasants and handicraftsmen in the village. He shows how the Narodniks have entirely wrong views about the development and therefore the

Marxians are the only ones who can give a correct ideological explanation of these phenomena, and become the real leaders of the Russian country poor.

COMRADE WILLI KRESS, DEBILITATED, Germany. Comrade Willi Kress, one of the best fighters of the German proletariat, and one of our best League workers of the Y. C. I. died on Jan. 1, 1926, at the age of 22. He was one of the secretaries of the Y. C. I. G. and was to the Fourth Congress of the Y. C. I.



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