
The Friends of Soviet Russia

by Alfred Wagenknecht ["A.B. Martin"], Secretary

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Today the Figure Exceeds \$265,000.

Clothing is coming in in large quantities. Cleveland is already hard at work. In addition to the splendid Foster meeting that was held there, which means the work of many comrades, more than 26 bales of clothing have been collected.

Chicago has gathered more than 3,000 pairs of overshoes and 7,000 pairs of used shoes. A group of shoemakers in New York will repair the shoes and make them serviceable for our Russian fellow workers.

The United Mine Workers of America are very active in collecting funds and assessments for Soviet Russia. In Illinois they are especially active, the only opposition, regrettably, being that of the Socialist Labor Party. Can a party that calls itself socialist openly oppose relief work for Soviet Russia? Will workers allow such a thing to persist? There must be unity on this proposition. The whole working class of the country must unite on the question of famine relief. Whoever is against it proves his treason to working class interests.

Two clothing manufacturers in New York City offered the use of their shops and machinery for the manufacture of dresses for Soviet Russia. As already reported, these dresses were made by volunteer groups of the Shop Delegate Committee of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. This is a plan that deserves emulation wherever clothing is manufactured.

Detroit is arranging a symphony concert with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Women are being organized into knitting and sewing groups and circles, just as during the war days, except that their mission this time serves humanity.

Chicago is organizing the druggists for the supply of drugs and medicines. Excellent idea, worthy of emulation!

The State Building Trade Council of California has affiliated with the branch in Los Angeles. Labor

on the coast is wide-awake, and is surely showing its colors.

Collections of grain should be made in the farming districts. Get a group of farmers to donate a carload of grain which amounts to 40,000 pounds. Divided among many, it does not mean much for each. Furthermore, many farmers have a surplus of grain, of wheat or corn. This is worth more than gold in Russia at the present moment, and should be gathered. The papers report that a power plant in O'Neill, Neb., is using corn for fuel instead of coal, and that its heating capacity is satisfactory. In

the meantime, the people of Russia are starving! And we call ourselves civilized!

A farmer in Oregon donated a cow and calf, which was raffled off in a hamlet containing 10 families, and brought in \$93.75. The farmers of this country know what the struggle for existence means. Their heart goes out to the starving and suffering workers



and peasants of Russia. There is no hesitancy on their part.

Big contributions during the week: Cleveland, \$2,000; Chicago, \$4,000; Lithuanian Section, \$3,700; Detroit, \$1,000; Boston, \$4,000; Cleveland, \$860; Los Angeles, \$600; San Francisco, \$400; Seattle, \$600; Binghamton, \$300; Technical Aid to Soviet Russia, \$600; Indianapolis, \$300; Cincinnati, \$500.

Floyd Ramp, Norman H. Tallentire, and Dennis E. Batt are additions to the list of speakers touring the country for the FSR. They know Russia — they know America. To hear them is to help Russia!

The films of the Second Congress of the Communist International are being exhibited in various towns with tremendous success. The pictures of the leaders of the Communist movement evoke immense applause.

No other relief organization is doing the big work that the FSR is. Has it ever occurred to you why? Is it not possibly the nature of our appeal and the energy that the comrades are putting into the work, that inspires the great masses to respond? We believe it is. We believe that the people of this country are slowly comprehending.

Local News Bulletin — FSR Sections.

In order to facilitate the work of the FSR, so that all organizations within a given neighborhood may work in absolute harmony, it has been found advisable to arrange for the establishment of section or neighborhood branches as follows: Lower East Side, Lower West Side, Yorkville, Harlem, Bronx, Williamsburg, Brownsville, and others as soon as it is deemed advisable. No attempt is being made to interfere with the existing machinery of the various affiliated local bodies or with their plans, but it is, however, sound policy to coordinate such work throughout the city and prevent duplication. Aim of local conference is therefore to bring delegates of organizations together and formulate policies. Aim of section conference is to bring individuals together for the carrying out of purely neighborhood activities and to ensure the cooperation of each body with the plans of the other.

Immediate Tasks — Map out territory for the efficient distribution of return postcards. *Get volunteer trucks and notify local secretary at once!* We plan to hire others.

Future Tasks — Foster meetings to be arranged for: New Star Casino, January 1 [1922]; Brownsville Labor Lyceum, January 5; Webster Hall, January 3. Needed: Chairman, collection squads, ushers, literature sellers, ticket sellers, treasurer, press agent, etc. Advertising matter will be furnished by the local office. Gigantic FSR bazaar in February; apply for space. Get materials ready. Prepare your stunt.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Portrait of Alfred Wagenknecht (circa 1918) courtesy of June Allison Walters.

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