

A BOLSHEVIK ACHIEVEMENT TO BE CONSOLIDATED AND FOLLOWED UP

By RAYMOND BAKER.

The Communist Party in District 2 has made a serious achievement in the field of Revolutionary Parliamentarism by securing nearly 30,000 workers' signatures to put the Communist candidates on the ballot in the coming elections.

successful agitation by individual canvassing of workers at their homes.

PREPARING TO STRIKE

—BY BURCK



Put Walls Around It!

Mayor Murphy and the Detroit bosses have hit on a happy idea in putting up signs at every entrance to Detroit reading: "Strangers, Keep Out!" Only they're about a thousand years behind the times.

After all it would be quite fitting to show that capitalist "civilization" is reverting to forms harmonious with its barbarous character if all the cities would build walls around themselves.

Mulrooney's Finest

There hasn't been enough head cracking lately to satisfy the New York cops, so just to keep in trim until the winter bread riots begin Patrolman Calvin Sayers got a Heywood Brown bun on Monday night—walked into a house in Brooklyn, shot a 53-year-old widow to death, showing that he knows what Mulrooney meant when he made a speech recently telling the cops to be kind and courteous to the people.

Another cop, Julius Herberer, taking the hint from Jimmy Walker that what is wanted right now in New York City is civic righteousness to defend our sacred homes from the menace of Bolshevism, went out with his little police car, looted the furniture from two homes and presented it to his lady love, an Irish school teacher, who teaches the kids that they have terrible immorality in the Soviet Union.

It seems that this cop, who was setting up a little pedagogic concubine thus on the side, he being married and the father of two kids, is especially distinguished by having a dad who is a justice of the peace and at the same time is drawing salary as chaplain of the Nassau County Jail, being a preacher devoted to showing the love the Way of Life.

Now we ask everybody to note that the cop who put four bullets through the aged and widowed mother of six children is reported in the N. Y. Times to "have had a good record in the police department." While the cop whose philandering led him into making the mistake of robbing the houses of the rich, besides "having served with the navy during the World War," is noted for "a splendid record as a detective and was promoted to be a sergeant two years ago, later acting as lieutenant."

It was while he was a sergeant that he lifted the furniture. But when his police car was found full of good liquor after a fire in a rich man's cellar, he was demoted! It don't pay to steal from the rich when you're their watchdog.

We Shed Tears—Crocodile Tears

Ordinarily discussion articles are signed when submitted and this year's crop runs heavily to "shocks," but we're going to evade the censor and run something neither signed nor "shocking" except in one way.

Someone signing a letter as "A League Member" objects to recent criticisms of D. O.'s in this column and, assuring us that it's no personal matter, passes on to the following: "I am one comrade of many who really knows what our D. O.'s have to go through, as I have a brother and a comrade who are both acting D. O.'s. My brother, I know, has given up a good trade and many other necessities to be active in our movement. My comrade has given up a \$45 a week job, a home, old mother, etc., to be active as a D. O."

Now, we are compelled to interject here that we have a better opinion of D. O.'s than does the League member who wrote such rot as this. The "Internationale" tells us: "We want no condescending saviors," though it's doubtful if "A League Member" ever learned more than the first verse.

One grave disease in the revolutionary movement is precisely this "social worker" viewpoint of coming to the movement as from above, to "help and guide the poor downtrodden workers." Such petty-bourgeois ideology is enough to turn the stomach of any worker, and we are far from ascribing it to our D. O's.

We sort of get the feeling that this sort of Tin Jesus idea is part of the reason why the League hasn't "made the turn"—due to its student non-proletarian composition.

We feel sad about the D. O. who gave up "a good trade and many other necessities," though what trade is guaranteed "good" for a worker these days is something we missed. And as for the D. O. who actually laid down "a \$45 a week job, a home and old mother" on the altar of the revolution, we can only burst into tears in sympathy and assure him that we will never deprive him of the pleasure of further sacrifice, and would he do some more by kindly remitting sums due the Daily Worker, as we have some people working for it who have been fed up on the joy of sacrifice.

"What I suggest," the anonymous League Member goes on, "is that you give these comrades a little more co-operation instead of criticism."

This is what might be called rich: We send the districts thousands of dollars worth of Daily Workers. They dispose of them for cash, but never dream of paying for them (probably this is a part of their sacrifice for the working class), and then "A League Member" suggests that we should "give them co-operation!"

And when the Party decides that such vandalism must be stopped, she ("A League Member" is undoubtedly a she) says that her letter should be printed in the Daily Worker "as criticism to Comrade Jorge for his uncommunist tactics."

PRE-PLENUM DISCUSSION Young Communist League, U.S.A.

The Cleveland District Before and After the Plan of Action

By BEN INTRATOR (Cleveland).

DISTRICT SIX, just as other districts, began to carry out the Plan of Action at a time when it was politically and organizationally incapable to do it.

The units on the most part were units on paper which in the case of out of town did not actually meet, with the exception of our unit in Akron. Those of our units which did meet had dead, lifeless meetings, conducted no activity whatsoever and functioned more as social clubs where our membership would come together once a week for an hour or two.

As a result of this there was practically no activity in the shops, not a single shop nucleus or shop committee existed and no shop papers issued.

The result of this neglect of practical every day work of the Y. C. L. in the shops was that our Y. C. L. became more and more isolated from the young workers, instead of developing and increasing our activities, as this radicalization of the young workers progressed.

On the other hand while the every day work was neglected and not carried out in the shops, we find that the Y. C. L. busied itself primarily with demonstrative activity which although very good could not be brought to successful results, due to the preparatory propaganda not being spread in the shops.

The Y. C. L. considered demonstrations for demonstrations sake and failed to link up the campaigns but separated them. The activity ceased when the demonstrations ended.

The result of this absolutely wrong method of work resulted in the following example: On March 6th the Y. C. L. succeeded in recruiting 200 young workers into the Y. C. L. With a very few exceptions (about 6 or 7) none of these applicants were followed up, attended to, and those that did attend the Y. C. L. meetings were lost, due to the lack of activity, dry meetings, and generally wrong method of work.

The district was loose not only in activity, but we find that even in the leadership this had a very bad effect. The district departments did not function and some of our most important departments were not in existence such as the T. U. U. L. and anti-militarist departments.

The dues payments were a fraction of what they should be and signatures were written into the books instead of stamps being given. A spirit of being permanently unemployed existed among our comrades and resulted in mental depression and demoralization of our comrades.

What Was Done.

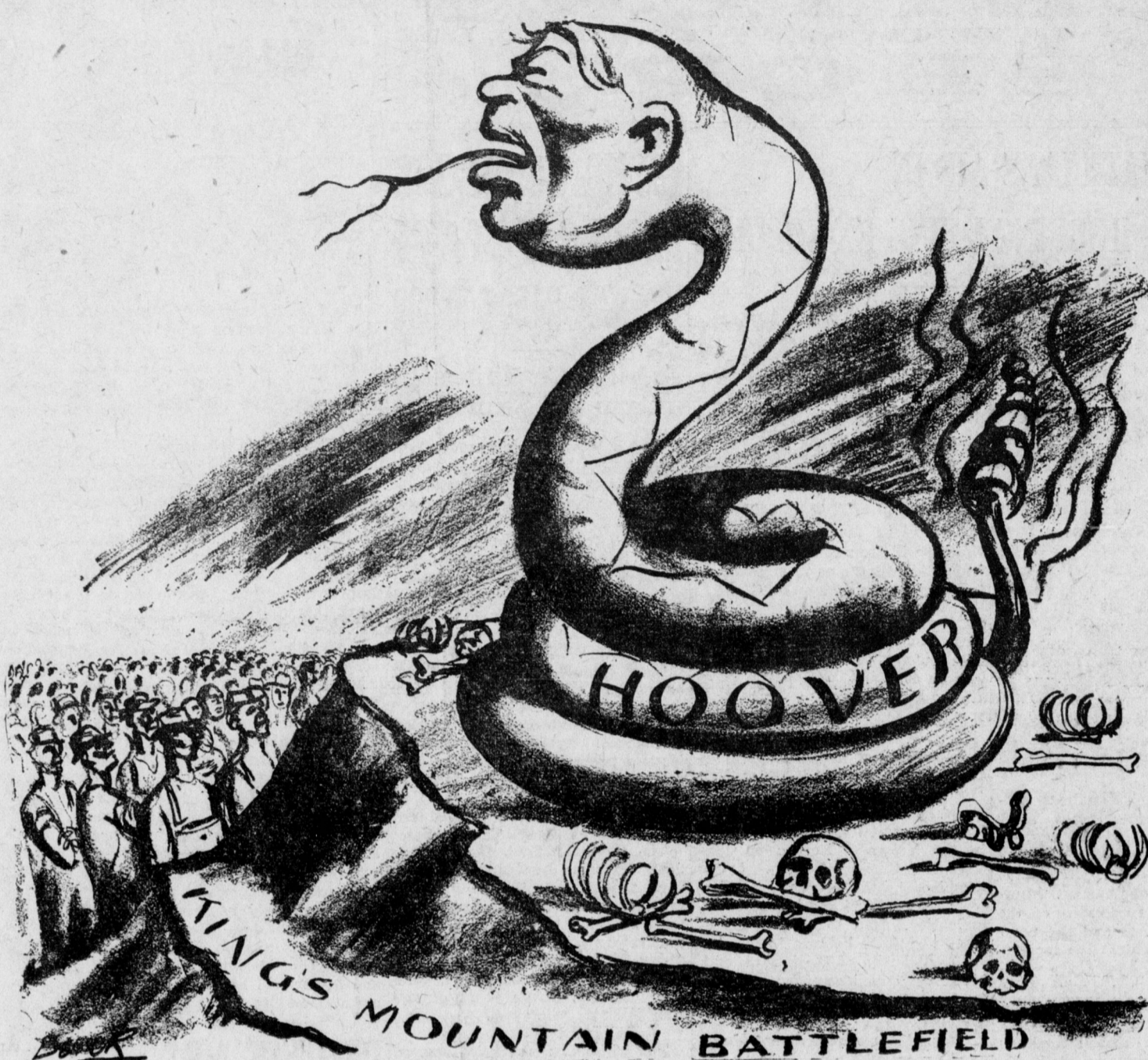
One of the basic reasons why the plan of action did not fully fulfill its object was because the leadership did not fully realize the political importance of the plan of action.

What steps we took are as follows:

1. Had a thorough discussion in the bureau on the plan of action.
2. Mobilized our leadership to set an example in the units to carry out the tasks.
3. We fought against any signs of passivity and pessimism on the part of either the leadership and membership.

After mobilizing the district leadership it was necessary to at once abolish the organizational looseness that prevailed in the district and steps were taken in that direction. We dissolved some units that did not function and strengthened others.

This general tightening up in the League apparatus, although only partially realized, resulted in a better spirit to do work and in the time that followed there were signs of increased activity, and the membership went about the activity of the League with a much better spirit than previously.



THE GERMAN REICHSTAG ELECTIONS AND THE TASKS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY

By FRITZ HECKERT (Berlin).

When at the end of July last the Bruening Government dissolved the Reichstag because it did not possess a majority for carrying through its dictatorial taxation measures, neither it nor anybody in Germany believed that the elections on September 14 would have such a result.

The fact that the old bourgeois parties have been almost completely shattered by the election and a new party, the National Socialist Party, has far outstripped all other bourgeois parties, is almost unexampled in the history of Parliament.

The result of the elections denotes more than mere dissent with the policy hitherto pursued in Germany; it indicates the rapid approach of a great revolutionary crisis arising on the basis of the economic crisis and the Young Plan.

The Communist Party has increased its vote from 3,230,000 to nearly 4,600,000. That is a gain of more than 1,300,000 votes. At the same time the social democratic party has lost over 600,000 votes while the participation in the election was 13 per cent higher than at the previous Reichstag election.

Can these results be accomplished? Yes, and in as short time as possible because the immediate future speaks of tremendous mass struggles of the workers against capitalism.

Our Party and League must be the leading core in these struggles in order not only to bring them to a satisfactory conclusion but also to increase their membership and their mass following in the working class.

Westinghouse Cuts Wages, Mellon Profits

By GRACE HUTCHINS

Firing and wage cuts are the order of the day at the huge Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. workers near Pittsburgh, as at other plants in this industrial center. Only one-third the former number of workers are now employed. Wages are at least 10 per cent less than former rates.

The office force was recently cut down by 10 per cent, and two weeks later the remaining office workers were given a 10 per cent wage cut. Women workers, hired at a cut rate of two-thirds of men's wages, have replaced men in many departments.

Westinghouse plays the old game of firing a group of workers when they finish a particular job to replace some a few weeks later at lower wages. "Women come cheaper," and so girls now work at almost all processes in the rubber departments of the Westinghouse Air Brake plants.

Workers Starve, Boss Profits

During the very months of 1930 while workers' wages were cut, the rate of dividend going to capitalist stockholders was increased from \$1 a quarter per share to \$1.25 a quarter per share—a 25 per cent increase. Dividends distributed in 1929 totalled over \$11,000,000. The Mellon family is well represented on the Westinghouse board of directors, while Andrew Mellon himself as U. S. secretary of treasury paid back to the Westinghouse company nearly \$2,000,000 federal tax refund in 1929.

New machines have displaced many workers in Westinghouse plants. One such machine in six parts, called the Aut-a-Mat, recently installed in the Westinghouse Air Brake Co. at Wilmerding, Pa. does the work of 30 men.

"Very costly, it's true," explains the young engineer, "but the initial cost, you understand, is made up many times over in wages."

In one great room of electrical machinery, high-powered automatic switch boxes, one young boy alone tends the entire equipment. "But what's up-to-date today is obsolete tomorrow," continues the engineer and quotes the example of Inland Steel and Dupont Co. of Indiana Harbor, Ind. where blast furnaces which produced a maximum of 600 tons a day in 1927 now produce 1,000 and more tons a day.

At the Westinghouse furnaces the heat of furnaces and hot sand mixed together is enough to exhaust the workers in a short time. The atmosphere is tight and stifling. In the rubber departments girl workers, dressed in overalls, must stand the smell of heated rubber, "enough to knock you over." Negro workers are used on the worst jobs where the heat is fiercest and the danger of accidents is greatest.

The result of the elections has proven the exact contrary and thereby demonstrated before the whole world that the Communists make the greatest progress when they unflinchingly put forward revolutionary demands and aims.

The fact that the Communist Party has become the leading party in Berlin, Halle, Dusseldorf-West, and Lower Rhine is of decisive importance. In a number of other electoral areas such as Dusseldorf-East, Upper Silesia, Cologne-Aachen we have outstripped the social democratic party. In the Ruhr we have with few exceptions beaten the social democrats. In many of these huge industrial towns the Communist gain amounted to 70 to 100 per cent.

Also in many other big towns we have topped the poll, as for instance in Berlin, where the Communist vote increased from 611,317 at the last Reichstag elections to 738,986, while the social democratic vote fell from 816,196 to 797,821. The Communist Party topped the poll in all working class districts in Berlin, before all in Wedding, Friedrichshain, Neukolln and Zentrum.

It was only in the fashionable West End districts that the social democrats were able to poll a larger vote than the Communists. The more bourgeois the district is, the greater the advantage of the social democrats. Nothing can show more plainly than the election result in Berlin, that the social democracy has ceased to be the party of the workers, and that it is rapidly becoming a bourgeois party.

A detailed examination of the election result shows that our party has made the greatest progress in those places in which it prepared and organized the fight of the workers in spite of all resistance and difficulties. This is the case without exception. This fact proves that unhesitating advocacy of our revolutionary principles and our revolutionary tactics guarantees the greatest advance to the Party.

The Party must more than ever become the leader of the proletariat and of the oppressed strata of the population. It must organize the economic struggles of the proletariat in the big economic crisis and