

Revolutionary Age

For Communist Unity in the Revolutionary Class Struggle

VOLUME I.
NUMBER 15.

Issued by
Communist Party U. S. A. - Majority Group

JUNE, 15, 1930.
10c A COPY

Miners Fight Unemployment

On Sunday, May 25, 1930 there took place in the city of Wilkes Barre the Anthracite Unemployment Conference called by the Provisional Unemployment Committee. It was a splendid success! There were present 56 delegates representing 21 labor organizations of the hard coal-region. These delegates represented some locals of the National Miners Union (Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Ashley), two branches of the International Labor Defense, and a large number of workers' benefit and fraternal organizations.

The conference lasted for several hours and the highest spirit prevailed. The conference was addressed in Italian by John Fornier (who presided at the conference) and in English by Pat Brennan and Frank Vratarić. There was a very thorough discussion and all motions and resolutions were adopted unanimously.

A program of action, outlining the demands of the workers against unemployment and proposing plans of struggle, was enthusiastically adopted.

(Continue on page 2)

Unite Against Wage Cuts!

Smash the Bosses Attack on Labor!

Watch for Next Issue

The next issue of REVOLUTIONARY AGE will be a SPECIAL PARTY CONVENTION issue which will be of the greatest interest and importance to every single Party member and revolutionary worker. It will contain an APPEAL OF THE CP-MAJORITY GROUP TO THE PARTY CONVENTION which will review the experiences of the Party within the last year and will indicate the course the Party must follow if it is to fulfil its role as the leader of the American working class. Besides this there will be much valuable contemporary material that every militant worker should read. The next issue of REVOLUTIONARY AGE will also contain an examination and analysis of the recent convention of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union.

A wage-cutting drive on a national scale is being launched with terrific impetus by the biggest employers of labor. All signs point to a whirlwind of wage-slashes blowing in the ranks of labor before Thanksgiving Day. The open-shoppers are preparing a fierce drive on the wages and standards to cover simultaneously every industry in every section of the country.

It is not merely a question of wage cuts in sundry industries which have been occurring with increasing frequency since the collapse of the Stock Market. It is a question of open and secret measures now being prepared by big capital to lower considerably the wage levels and working conditions won thru years of hard struggle. The new open-shop drive, now being prepared, is following in many ways, the course of the "grand offensive" of 1921. But from all indications the new offensive may assume as great or even greater dimensions than

the 1921 drive.

Neither wild speculation in New York nor loud talk in Washington have been able to prevent the breaking of the prosperity bubble. The festering sores of American capitalism are now poisoning the lives of millions of workers thru joblessness, starvation, and misery on the worst scale within the last ten years. The bosses are trying desperately to shift the full burden of the severe economic crisis to the backs of the workers. Grousing and glooming about their loss of profits in recent months, the exploiters are frantically seeking a way out. Prices of commodities have been falling sharply because of the economic crisis. But this has failed to stem the ebbs of the huge dividend tides in which big business has been bathing in the last six years. The price-cutting of today is proof of the deepening crisis and not a sign of recovery. Nor are Hoover's rosy statistics and the Department of Commerce cheerio talks and Sunday-prosperity sermons on the radio filling the coffers of the ruling class with fabulous profits. So the bosses are hell-bent on going the limit with their "tried and true" weapons of making the workers foot the whole bill, pay in full for the tragedy of the present economic crisis. Unemployment, reduced wages, worsened working standards and conditions—that's the price the workers are to pay if the bosses have their way.

The ground is being thoroughly prepared for the winter offensive by the capitalists. First of all, red-scares are being manufactured. A country-wide anti-Communist drive have been launched in the spirit and ways of Palmer and Burleson. The North Carolina Masons have just voted at their convention to take the lead in the new anti-Communist campaign. The forty-first Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution have, at their convention just closed, unfurled their black banners of reaction against the Communists and all militant workers. As we go to press, the American Plan—Open Shop Conference has just closed its National Convention in Duluth with a decision to wipe out all roots of unionism, to spread the open-shop, and to bring the country "back to normalcy," back to "normal" instead of "high" living—by cutting the cost of labor—by means of wage cuts.

The opening guns of the wage-slashing drive have been fired in the last ten days by some of the most gigantic corporations. The Rockefeller-controlled Consolidation Coal Co., the biggest soft-coal "producers" in the world, have just announced a minimum wage-cut of 14%. A prominent financial journal omnisciently says that *this wage-reduction is "of great significance not only to the coal field but to industries now considering plans for reducing cut-throat competition."*

The West Virginia and Pennsylvania bituminous fields are now in the throes of a devastating wage-cutting epidemic. How severely the coal diggers are suffering here is shown in the following estimate of one of the leading business organs of the country. "An investigation of the

U. S. Government Bans Revolutionary Age!

Post Office Declares Communist Paper "Seditious"

Charging that its first six issues have violated the "sedition" and "indecent" clauses of the United States Code, the Post Office has barred REVOLUTIONARY AGE from the mails. In a letter to Mr. Morris L. Ernst, counsel for REVOLUTIONARY AGE, Horace J. Donnelly, Solicitor for the Post Office Department, has declared that REVOLUTIONARY AGE is unmailable under Sections 334 and 344 which read:

344.—Letters or writings advocating treason declared non-mailable. Every letter, writing, circular, postal card, picture, print, engraving, photograph, newspaper, pamphlet, book or other publication, matter or thing, of any kind, containing any matter advocating or urging treason, insurrection, or forcible resistance to any law of the United States, is hereby declared to be non-mailable."

"334. Criminal Code, section 211 amended. Mailing obscene matter... The term, 'indecent' within the intentment of this section shall include matter of a character tending to incite arson, murder, or assassination."

The Communist Party (Majority Group) has already launched a campaign to mobilize the militant workers to protect the paper. The attempt to suppress REVOLUTIONARY AGE is a blow not merely against the whole labor movement—it is a blow

against all elements of the working class who are ready to take up a fight for their interests. The fight against the attempt of the Federal Government to ban REVOLUTIONARY AGE will be a long and difficult one. The financial burden will be very great and it can only be met thru the immediate support of the Party membership and the militant workers.

Party members! The U. S. government is attempting to suppress a Communist paper on charges of "treason" and "sedition"! It is your duty to defy the bureaucrats and to help us smash this attack of the American imperialists!

Workers! The attack on REVOLUTION-

ARY AGE is an attempt to usher in a new drive upon militant labor that will recall the worst excesses of the Burleson and Palmer regimes! Don't delay!

**BOOST OUR FIGHTING FUND!
RUSH IN DONATIONS!
MAKE COLLECTIONS!
THE FATE OF REVOLUTIONARY AGE DEPENDS UPON YOUR ANSWER!**

On May 17, 1930, J. J. Kiely, Postmaster of New York informed the *Revolutionary Age*:

"In connection with your application for entry of *Revolutionary Age* as second class matter, the Solicitor of the Post Office Department has held the November 1 and 15, December 1 and 15, 1929 and January 1 and 15, 1930 issues of this publication to be unmailable.

"The Third Assistant Postmaster General advises that in view of the fact that no copies of a mailable issue of the publication have been submitted, no further consideration will be given to the pending application for entry of the publication as second class matter."

Not satisfied with this the New York Post Office has arbitrarily held up the mailing of the May 21 issue of *Revolutionary Age* for several days.

This is the first time since the war and post war "red baiting" hysteria that a working class publication has been re-

(Continued on page 2)

MAIL EARLY AND OFTEN TO HASTEN DISPATCH AND DELIVERY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

United States Post Office
NEW YORK, N. Y.

May 17, 1930.

PUBLISHERS OF "Revolutionary Age"
Room 807, 27 East 28th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

In connection with your application for entry of "Revolutionary Age" as second class matter, the Solicitor of the Post Office Department has held the November 1 and 15, December 1 and 15, 1929 and January 1 and 15, 1930 issues of this publication to be unmailable.

The Third Assistant Postmaster General advises that in view of the fact that no copies of a mailable issue of the publication have been submitted, no further consideration will be given to the pending application for entry of the publication as second class matter.

The deposits received to cover postage on mailings made under the conditional permit issued when the application for entry was filed will be converted into postage stamps and sent to the Department.

Sincerely yours,
J. J. Kiely
Postmaster.

U-P

(continued on page 2).

applied concretely in the most varied forms.

2. The trade union work of the Party remains as ever the center of gravity of its entire work. It is necessary now to concentrate all forces to make up as quickly as possible for the last year of ruin and destruction, for the virtual disappearance of the left wing in the old unions and for the practical collapse of the new unions, for the perversion and degeneration of the T.U.U.L., for the orgy of bluff and bombast in the paper organization of "new unions" according to blueprint. An end must be put to the attempt to make the T.U.U.L. into a dual ("revolutionary") center to the A. F. of L., and even into a mere auxiliary or extension of the Party. It must be restored to what it should have been in the beginning: a center of the left wing in the trade unions, a force for the organization of the unorganized, a binding force for the whole left wing movement. A left wing must be reestablished in all unions (even in industries where T.U.U.L. unions exist) upon the basis of a concrete program of action. The organization of the unorganized is the central trade union issue of the Communists in the U. S. A. The slogan of the organization of the unorganized must be raised in the old unions as one of the central points of the left wing program and every effort must be made to have the existing unions serve as organization centers for the organization of the unorganized. This issue is an especially powerful weapon against the trade union bureaucracy. But it must be recognized that in the U. S. A. the organization of the unorganized will take place largely thru the organization of the new unions. In the formation of new unions a break must be made with the present system of arbitrary proclamation of paper "revolutionary unions" according to blueprint. New unions can only be developed thru mass struggles and can only be established upon a broad mass base. Above all new unions must not be established thru splitting the old unions; they must be new unions, really organizing the unorganized.

As far as the existing T.U.U.L. unions are concerned, there must be an open and frank recognition not only of the catastrophic condition of these unions but of the causes of this condition: the false sectarian line, the introduction of the wrecking campaign into the unions, the persecution and removal of the most valuable comrades because of factional political reasons, the conversion of the unions themselves into Party auxiliaries. Upon the basis of facts, no matter how unpleasant they may be, and not upon the basis of bluff, phantasy, or wishes, an examination must be made of the status of the T.U.U.L. unions and their prospects and a policy worked out of coordinating their work with the central task of building a left wing in the reactionary unions in the same industry. The slogan of trade union unity in various forms occupies the central position here. Upon the trade union question the entire mass work of the Party depends.

3. The acute unemployment situation and the appearance of permanent mass unemployment on an unheard of scale puts some major tasks before the Party which so far it has signally failed to meet. On the basis of the immediate demands of the unemployed and the struggle against the economic offensive of the bosses a movement can be built up which will unite the employed and the unemployed, the organized and the unorganized, and which will mobilize the organized labor movement (regardless of existing political divisions) in the struggle against unemployment. That this can be done the spontaneous response that marked the March 6 demonstrations is sufficient evidence. But to do this it is necessary to drop the whole ultra-left system that has paralyzed the work of the Party. The unemployment movement cannot be made a department of the T.U.U.L., an auxiliary of the Party, with a Party program and platform. Organization and activity in the labor organizations must replace the policy of bluff. Realistic slogans and concrete immediate demands must replace the pseudo-revolutionary bombast and adventurist slogans of today.

4. The struggle against the danger of a new world war, and especially the struggle in defense of the U.S.S.R. is a central task of the Party in the present international situation. This struggle must be conducted on the basis of the concrete world-political relations and not on the basis of empty abstractions, as is done in the Comintern today. The struggle against the danger of war and against the burdens of militarism is one of the best basis for the very broadest united front movement. In the foreground stands the attack upon the imperialist adventures of Yankee imperialism, in Latin America, in China, in Eu-

rope and against the Soviet Union. The Party must actively work for the recognition of the Soviet Union by the United States.

5. The ravages of capitalist rationalization upon the workers, far worse in the U. S. A. than anywhere else, raises the problem of social legislation in a very acute form, for in the U. S. A. there is practically no national social legislation at all. The demand for the legal 7-hour day, the struggle for old age pensions, for workmen's compensation, for unemployment relief and insurance, for maternity insurance, for accident and sickness insurance, etc. can readily be made mass issues in the struggle against capitalist reaction in the U. S. A.

6. The situation today points to an increasingly favorable basis for the slogan of a Labor Party. There is absolutely no reason in the objective situation for the scrapping of the Labor Party slogan as has been done by the Central Committee of our Party. On the contrary, precisely because of the growing leftward movement among the workers and the growing political character of their struggles, does the situation demand an energetic campaign for a Labor Party, as a political united front movement for a break with the old parties of capital, for independent class political action. The struggle for Labor Party is a next stage in the advance of the American workers towards full class consciousness, towards revolutionary struggle against the capitalists and their government. Within the Labor Party movement, the Communists maintain their right to criticism and independent political activity, continually pointing out the insufficiencies and limitations of the Labor Party and leading the masses to the Communist Party, the only Party that can lead the proletariat to emancipation.

7. Under the historical conditions of this country the Negro question is an extremely important one for the Communists and growing industrialization makes it even more so. For effective Negro work it is absolutely necessary to obtain clarity as to the real basis of our work among the Negro masses; that the Negro question in the U. S. A. is primarily a race problem, a problem of a subject racial minority.

8. Because of the strength of American imperialism, the size of the labor aristocracy, and the hopelessly reactionary and corrupt character of the upper layers of the trade union bureaucracy, the influence of reformism upon the workers of the U. S. A. is very strong. An effective struggle against reformism is conditioned upon a Leninist estimate of the roots and role of reformism (the rejection of the theory of the "break-up" of reformism and growth of social-fascism)

IX. THE MAIN TASKS OF OUR GROUP

51. In the light of the present situation in the Party and its tasks, what are the chief tasks of our group as the Communist Opposition in the Communist Party of the U. S. A.?

1. Our biggest job is the strengthening of our organization, its extension upon a national scale, the intensification of recruiting, the formation of more factory groups and trade union fractions, above all the tightening of the organization and the development of more responsibility and discipline among our own comrades.

2. The propaganda of the Leninist principles of strategy and tactics, of mass work, of winning the majority of the working class among the Party membership and the working masses is our basic ideological task. This requires a thorough ideological training of our own comrades, in many respects (trade union line) a reeducation from the false ideas that have been propagated within the last two years. We must make a complete break with the false methods developed into a system by the bureaucracy of the ECCI and from which ourselves have suffered. Moreover, we must clearly realize that in organizational forms and methods of work we cannot simply copy the methods and forms proper to a Communist Party, since we are only a group of the Party. We must do away with a certain fetishism of organizational forms and methods which are not useful but which are merely traditional. Ideological understanding and ideological conviction is the rock-bottom foundation of all our work.

3. The reunification of the Communist Party of the U. S. A. and of the Communist International is our main objective. The propaganda of Communist unity must be concentrated upon in every phase of our activity.

4. The support given to *Revolutionary Age* must be put on a completely new basis. It must be realized that without systematic and organized financial support *Revolutionary Age* cannot maintain itself, not to speak of being changed

The U. S. Government Wants to Suppress REVOLUTIONARY AGE

The Post Office Department has declared that our paper, REVOLUTIONARY AGE, cannot be mailed because it is "seditious" and "treasonable." This is an open and deliberate attempt to suppress our paper. The last issue of REVOLUTIONARY AGE was held up by the Post Office for almost a week and further drastic steps are being planned against us because REVOLUTIONARY AGE is the most effective organ of Communism in this country.

NORWAY	
The Independent Communists	\$ 5.00
ANTHRACITE	
Luzerne, Pa.	25.00
DETROIT, MICH.	
Collection list No. 426	6.60
HARTFORD, CONN.	
Dan Gotkis	5.00
L. Fischman	5.00
BLOOMFIELD, CONN.	
D. Alpert	5.00
S. Apatow	5.00
MONTREAL, CANADA	
Donation from 2 workers	10.00
LONG ISLAND CITY	
A party member	10.00
PHILADELPHIA, Pa.	
West Phila. Branch	120.00
NEW YORK CITY	
Section 2.	
Jack Roberts: \$50; Bess Lerner: 25; Lena Greenberg: 20; Pearl Halpern: 20; L. Diamond: 2; Gillis: 5; C. Wachofsky: 2; A. Gross: 5.	
Section 3	
Section donation: Helen Taublieb: 15; Sylvia Rosenberg: 10; M. Rock: 18; Fan- T O T A L:.....	

But this is not enough! REVOLUTIONARY AGE can be saved only if you rush

Boost the FIGHTING FUND!

and upon the application of correct tactics (united front, work in reactionary mass organizations). The false Party line has helped considerably to strengthen the influence of reformism; it is now necessary to make a break with this false line and to wage a real struggle against reformism.

into a weekly, more than our immediate objective. Far more than hitherto must our paper be brought into the shops and the mass organizations.

5. The rapid development of our independent activity in the mass organizations (especially in the trade unions) and among the masses faces us as the next stage of our struggle. The political basis for this work and its relation to our work of winning the Party membership must be made very clear to our comrades.

6. The wall that the bureaucrats have been attempting to build up between the Party membership and our comrades is breaking down under the force of events and our propaganda. The present period is very favorable for direct work in the Party, which must be resumed and systematized.

7. Immediate organizational and ideological assistance must be given to building up the Y.C.L.-Majority Group which has lagged behind our general development and the opportunities offered to it. The events of the last year, in the U. S. A. and internationally, have more than justified the struggle we have been carrying on. The crisis in our Party has been shown to be an organic part of the crisis in the Communist International and our struggle to be a part of the struggle of the International Opposition. (Our viewpoint on the question of the crisis in the Comintern is given in detail in our special resolution on this question.) Our first duty and our special task is to win the struggle for the international Leninist line on the American sector!

Forward to the unity of the Communist International!
Towards a mass Communist Party in the U. S. A.!

LIBERAL PRESS, Inc.
410 LAFAYETTE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

We Must Fight Back!

And you must help! You must build up our FIGHTING FUND. Without our FIGHTING FUND we cannot fight. Since we made our appeal a few weeks ago the response has been good. We publish the results of the drive up to date:

nie Levine: 5; Miller: 10; Mary Shanes: 3; L. Nelson: 5; Dennis Gita: 15; Bessie Newman: 11.50; Beatrice Pinchuk: 11.50; Celia Lichtman: 11.50; Eva Stone: 11.50; Sasha Zimmerman: 10; Rose Strepstein: 11; J. Wahl: 10; Dannenbaum: 5; Paul Tauber: 13; Lillian Gordon: 1; H. Z.: 51.

Section 4

Harry Linoff: \$10; V. Burstein: \$0; Morris Nemsch: 10; Ragoofsky: 10; Tillie Keene: 25; Saby Nohama: 20; Peter Hallenen: 17.75; Alexander Kobel: 5; Harry M. Winitzky: 2.

Section 5

J. Q. Bentall: \$25; Mrs. Arndt: 10; Eva Schlachter: 25; George Halpern: 20; Theresa Fox: 39; Lazar Becker: 10; Mrs. Becker: 10; G. Chibka: 5; M. Dederer: 5; J. Goldman: 5; G. Goldman: 5; Sara Gross: 5; Sophie Mesnil: 10; Miriam Silvis: 5.

Section 6

Bert Wolfe: \$10; M. L.: 6.
(Individuals)
M. Schneider: \$2; M. Dash: 2; O. Schleifer: 5; P. G. a party member: 5; Party member: 1; V. Zelnick: 1.

\$1,014.35

to its support! What will be your answer?
You must answer with deeds not words!

PATRONIZE
SILBERBERG'S
French Cleaning and Dyeing Store
667a Alberton Ave.
(near Olinville Ave.)
Telephone OLInville 2382
We do the finest work at the lowest prices.
We also clean fancy draperies, blankets, etc.

CANal 5781

UNITED BINDERY

161 GRAND STREET
NEW YORK CITY

JUST OUT

Indispensable Material on the
Indian Revolution

India in Revolt

Material and Documents on the
Struggle of the Indian Masses
for Freedom

(Manifesto of the International
Communist Opposition on the
Freedom of the Indian People—
The Lessons of the Lahore Con-
gress—The Course of the Indian
Revolution and the Shameful An-
ti-Communist Line of the Official
Party Leadership)

15¢

Order from:

REVOLUTIONARY AGE
37 East 28th St. - New York