

March-April, 1922

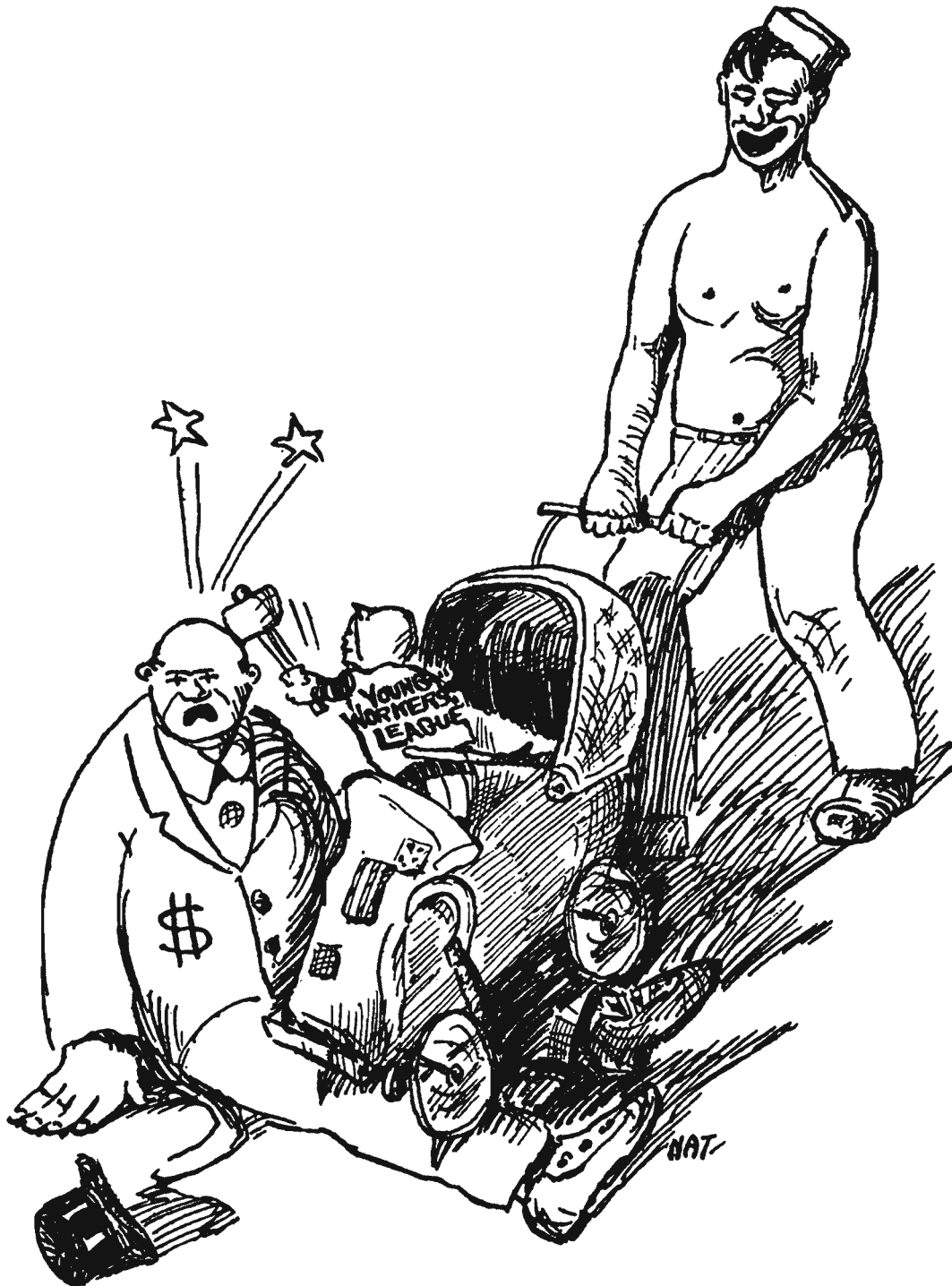


10 Cents per Copy

THE YOUNG WORKER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE

(Formerly "Youth")



Labor: "Wow, boy! Just imagine, when that kid grows up!"

The YOUNG WORKER

(Formerly YOUTH)

A Magazine for the Militant Young Workers of America

Published Monthly by the
National Organization Committee
for the Young Workers League of America

Send orders and remit funds to O. Carlson, Secretary
Young Workers League, Room 405, 799 Broadway, New York

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EDITORIALS

Our National Organ

We now have a medium of expression for the Young Workers League Nationally. "Youth" has been turned over to the National Organization Committee by the Young Workers League of New York. The resolution adopted by their City Central Committee, which appears elsewhere in this issue, shows the spirit that prompted them to do this. They want to BUILD a mass movement, and are willing to give up their paper in order that it may serve the needs of the national organization.

It is our purpose and desire to make this magazine as well known and widely circulated among the toiling masses of the young in America as we possibly can. The first step in this direction was made when the name was changed to The YOUNG WORKER. This is a far more significant name than that formerly used; and at the same time it will give us an opportunity of applying for second class mailing privileges, so that we can handle individual subscriptions with facility. Furthermore, prices for bundle rates have been reduced to 7 cents per copy.

This issue is largely devoted to Convention Material, but that is essential in order that the comrades all over the country may understand more fully the expressed object and purpose of the Young Workers League of America.

Hereafter we expect to feature short, snappy, articles by the most active and able comrades within our own ranks, dealing with the many phases of the Class Struggle, as viewed by youth. Cartoons, by our own members will also appear regularly.

Unavoidable delay was entailed in getting out

this issue of the YOUNG WORKER; and we have for that reason made this a March—April issue. The next issue will be the May number, and all subsequent issues will come out on time.

A subscription will entitle one to 12 issues of the YOUNG WORKER. The paper will be maintained as a monthly periodical. Later, when the organization increases and the paper gains in popularity, we might make it a bi-monthly, which would be highly desirable as a young press is needed to fight the battles of the young workers and to carry the message of the class struggle to those young toilers who are yet under the influence of capitalist "education", and consequently capitalist psychology.

The YOUNG WORKER is and will be just what the subscribers and contributors will make it so far as its militancy and valueness is concerned in the fight against the oppressors of labor. The YOUNG WORKER is the expression of the Young Workers League, and the Young Workers League is the vanguard of the organized young workers.

We need the support of every class conscious young worker TO BUILD THE YOUTH PRESS WHICH WILL JUSTIFY ITS EXISTANCE.

International of Youth

GERMANY

A Liebknecht-Luxemburg Children's Home, sufficient to house 200 has been opened in the Samara district thru the efforts of the German communist children. They wished to show their solidarity with their Russian comrades in a real and tangible way. And they did.

The sacrifices of the young people who have so very little themselves should prove an inspiration to the proletarian youth of all countries to do likewise.

SWEDEN

The unemployment situation in conjunction with the drastic cut in wages and lengthening of hours for those that do work, has caused a real crises in the economic condition of Sweden. The Young Communist League in that country, being an organization that is actively FIGHTING in the interest of the proletarian youth, as well as the working-class as a whole, has prepared an economic program which it is endeavoring to carry out. Mass demonstrations on behalf of the unemployed are held regularly. Special editions of "Stormklocken," their official organ, are devoted to the immediate problems of the working masses and the laboring youth with specific outlines as to what should be done in relieving this terrible situation.

Of the seven members of the Communist representatives in the Riksdag, the national legislative body, six are still active members in the Young Communist League there; and all of them have played an important part in the development of the youth movement of that country.

ITALY

Recently the 12th Convention of the Communist Leagues of Ligure, Italy, was called for the purpose of outlining new policies for the Communist Youth of Italy. The call for the convention of the Communist Youth of Ligure was prefaced with these words:

"For the first time since we separated from those who were an obstacle to proletarian action we call the revolutionary youth to our convention. The Communist youth must have a practical and complete program for the future in order that they may be able to rally the young Italian workers around the glorious banner of the Young Communist International. In Ligure it is necessary that a new basis be created for our movement so that victory over the forces of the white guards may be assured, and so that we may become a powerful auxiliary to the Communist Party in the battle against the enemies of the proletariat."

To Work!

The call for the national convention of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE comes to us at a time when we are confronted with a peculiar crisis in this country. Between six and ten millions of toilers are out of work. The Capitalist class finds itself powerless in its attempt to alleviate the conditions of the unemployed. The Unemployment Conference held at Washington recently has proved to be a complete and miserable failure. Attempts by state, city and county officials to help the unemployed have resulted in naught. In spite of all their attempts to solve it, the unemployment problem still remains unsolved; and there is no hope of relief in sight for the miserable, starving unemployed workers.

The open shop drive by the capitalist class, and their attempt to destroy the trade unions shows to the workers that the capitalists deceive them when there is work for all (as there was during the late war), by using patriotic phrases and permitting them to organize trade unions under the direction of company controlled leaders and by giving them good pay. Now because the master class realizes that the unions form a strong block that might prevent them from lowering the standard of living

of the workers, they attempt to smash the trade unions and bring back the open shop—the days of miserably long hours, intolerable conditions and little pay. As a result of these conditions and with the aid of their powerful press which they use to poison the minds of the workers, the working class of America today is in a state of apathy.

The task that would confront a real revolutionist at this time is to rouse the workers to action against their oppressors. This can be done only by gaining the confidence of the mass of workers. The entire problem depends upon how this is to be done. The Workers Party at its national convention pointed the way when they decided to make their organization not one of phrases, but a party of ACTION.

Just as the program of the Workers Party was based not upon revolutionary phrases but upon the immediate needs of the workers, so must the program of the Young Workers League be one of the same nature to meet the problems of the day.

Since we recognize that we cannot separate the young movement from the adult, we must also appreciate that neither of these movements should be permitted to make contrary decisions of a political nature, because, as a movement, we must present a united front.

Viewing the Workers Party as the revolutionary party of the workers, and knowing that it has a better understanding of the political situation in this country than we, the youth of the working class, it is logical and necessary that we should be under its political direction.

This must be made clear to our membership so that it should not be interpreted as giving up our organizational independence. We must be ORGANIZATIONALLY INDEPENDENT because it allows for the self-development of the membership. However, we should be politically subordinate to the Workers' Party.

We must remember that upon our understanding and decisions depends the future of the young workers' movement in this country.

Let us carefully consider our problems.

Let us make wise decisions.

Then, we must put our shoulders to the wheel. We must build to make the Young Workers League the mass organization of the youthful toiling masses of this country. The task before us is a tremendous one. Let no shirkers remain in our ranks. Only sincere, hard workers are wanted now. Let us make our organization a powerful weapon in the hands of the workers in their struggle against capitalism. To work, comrades, to work!

M. S.

*The National Convention has been
set over to May 13th, 1922*

They Do the Dirty Work

By HARRY GANNES

Every section of the capitalist class realizes the importance of dominating the young. It is plain to the most superficial observer that the education dispensed in the "public" schools is rife with capitalist propaganda. But the young workers do not remain in school very long, and in order to control their minds, and consequently their actions, the wealthy class spends millions of dollars to corral them into organizations some of which are outspokenly counter revolutionary. It is they who do the dirty work for the bosses.

Heavy financial assistance at all times is given to the Young Men's Christian Association, one of the most active enemies of the working class youth throughout the world. It is the advance guard of the capitalists in the colonial possessions, subduing the natives into submission and the acceptance of capitalist exploitation. The total value of the facilities of the Y. M. C. A. is over \$100,000,000. It spends something like \$45,000,000 a year—all in the interest of perpetuating the capitalist system. Special field workers are sent into the factories and ferret out agitators, reporting direct to the bosses and aid in pacifying the workers. Though much smaller, the Young Woman's Christian association is engaged in the same work; and during the world war was instrumental in teaching the employers how best to exploit female labor. During the war workers were forced to subscribe to the Y. M. C. A. an organization created to play an important part in the suppression of the working class.

There are Jewish and Catholic Societies organized for the same purpose, to reach the young workers of those denominations. Especially under religious disguises are these organizations able to carry on their venomous work.

It is a simple task for organizations, backed by the ruling class, to induce the youthful workers to join them. They have the best facilities (club rooms, libraries, gymnasiums, camps etc.) Cooperation is given by factory owners; and particularly in the large plants are these bodies afforded wide latitude to work among the young. In the schools, army, prisons, reform institutions—wherever the young of the working class are thrown, can be found the tentacles of these monsters of capitalism. They work, also, in close cooperation with the state.

The Boy Scouts of the world are the white guards of international capitalism. In Germany it was the young cadets, students and boys brigades that were instrumental in crushing the Spartacists.

Even they aid in strike breaking. In the

United States we find many instances where the Boy Scouts, as well as the Girl Scouts, were used to intimidate the workers into the acceptance of lower wages and slavish working conditions.

In the United States the Boy Scouts say they are not a military organization. That is a lie. The only function that a Boy Scout organization can serve as far as its creator is concerned (the capitalist class) is a force which will aid in subduing the working class.

The Boy Scouts are trained as soldiers; they are pervaded with the psychology of a soldier—obedience to their master, to the ruling class, to all their immediate "superiors". The Boy Scouts in Chicago are furnished bullets and rifle ranges free of charge. General Leonard Wood declared in a letter that the boy scout makes a good soldier, and all that is needed to place him in the ranks of the regular army is to supply him with a rifle.

The Boy Scouts of America number 500,000. Their influence reaches almost every boy in the United States. Support is given them by the Government, nationally as well as locally. Congress has chartered the Boy Scouts. The schools and libraries circulate their propaganda. Churches of all denominations co-operate with them. In the West, banks take the Boy Scouts on excursions. The capitalist class as a whole is heart and soul in back of the Boy Scouts, not only of America, but of the entire world. The Boy Scouts are international. They have representation in almost every capitalist country of the world. Their motto "Be Prepared" in reality means: "Be prepared against a working class uprising."

There are many other boys clubs in the country formed for various purposes but which in reality seek to reconcile the young workers with their lot under the present system of society. Throughout the industrial centers they are as thick as flies. In the agricultural sections they plan to make the young agrarian worker contented with their miserable existence on the farm, and endeavor to teach them how to become better producers (at the same time we read that farmers throughout the Western States burn their grain for fuel.)

The young workers should not do the dirty work of the capitalist class by joining these organizations. They form the battalions, together with the state, church and schools that keep the workers in subjection, applaud every act of the capitalists and strengthen the morale during capitalist wars. They do the dirty work.

The Morals of the Movies

A Review of the Arbuckle Case.

Moving pictures are one of the most powerful propaganda forces wielded by the capitalist class. To the millions of people who daily go to the picture shows is doled out the "virtues" of capitalism. The master class does not overlook any opportunity to slander organized labor through the use of pictures. And the philosophy that is disseminated by use of the screen (sugar-coated with humor) is calculated to "appease" the hungry and to feed the unemployed with hope.

Because of their plastic minds, the young are especially apt to derive "instruction" from the pictures. The children and young people of this country attend the picture shows more frequently than do the adults. Hence the propaganda reaches them and to a greater degree. The morals of capitalism, as portrayed by such actors as "Fatty" Arbuckle and the countless number of his type who have not had the misfortune to have committed so slight an error as murder, are set up as examples to the future generation.

Accidents will happen; and once in a generation a cog will slip in the well regulated machine and we get a glimpse of the true character of these teachers of morality.

But the capitalists will not desert so "valuable" a man as "Fatty", and they begin to pull the strings to acquit him. Incidentally, the impartiality of our justice—dispensing machinery is revealed in all its hideousness.

It is easier to observe the actions of others. And the following interesting analysis of the Arbuckle Case and justice in the United States gives us a picture of a phase of American Capitalism as seen by our English comrades.

* * *

(From the British Communist)

So Roscoe—"Fatty"—Arbuckle is to come to trial again. Arbuckle was not always a rich man, he was once a "saloon bum," a down and out hanger-on of pubs. As a chucker-out and as a potboy he once earned a more or less honest living, until he struck lucky on the films, but even in his time of great wealth he retained the manners, and habits of his pubcrawling days. He is, or was, at least, before this action began, a millionaire, and behind him are many of the most important cinema firms of the U. S. A., who have some miles of Arbuckle film which they dare not release till the fat comedian is acquitted.

District Attorney Brady, of California, prosecuting him, exclaimed aloud in court to a reporter:—

"Can you tell me how I can join a bomb-throwing organisation? I mean an organisation more violent than the I. W. W. I believe in dynamiting when I see such efforts to pervert justice!"

District Attorney Brady is not a strong man. He is a weak and uncertain man, but he was put into office largely by a Labor vote, to perform one definite duty—to dislocate the whole operation of the "Frame-up" ring of California. This Ring originally worked through Brady's predecessor, Fickert. It used him to jail for life a San Francisco Labor leader, Tom Mooney, on a false charge of dynamiting. It produced forged evidence and suppressed real evidence. Witness after witness was brought forward and torn to pieces, and their places at once cynically taken by other hired agents. Eventually Mooney was condemned to death, but the grossness of the fraud was such that the sentence was changed to imprisonment for life—and he is still in jail.

For capitalist justice in California has gone one step further than it has here. There it is completely corrupt and completely at the direct service of a financial ring who own all the judges, can interfere in the selection of jurors, and have a regular service of false witnesses for use in almost any case. The utter filthiness of this whole gang was bound to provoke a reaction, and when Fickert was found to be having dealings with the Germans an opportunity arose for the election of a substitute—Brady—who was pledged to their destruction.

The Frame-up ring has now been called in to defend Arbuckle, and it is defeating Brady. It has been called in because Arbuckle is essential to the Californian anti-union forces. He is the biggest propagandist inside the cinema trade for the "open shop" campaign which is now being pressed hard. A strong and partly successful attempt has been made to smash unionism in the film trade (an "open shop" is a non-union shop) and cut wages. The twelve firms involved in this drive are:—

Christie Film Co., Thos. H. Ince Productions, Hal E. Roach Studios, Brunton Studios Inc., Buster Keaton Comedies, Lasky-Famous Players Co., Metro Pictures Corp., William Fox Studios, Goldwyn Pictures Corp., Realart Pictures Corp., Universal Film Company.

Fatty Arbuckle, their star scab actor, was also their best asset in this campaign. And then he gets himself arrested for rape and murder.

Still, money can do most things. and the Frame-up ring got busy. First of all Judge Lazarus was made to reduce the charge from one of murder by rape to manslaughter. It will be remembered that Arbuckle carried the girl Virginia Rappe out of the room at a drunken party in his hotel, saying, "I've waited for you five years"; that a chambermaid passing by the bedroom door heard the girl's screams and struggles; that the guests who entered the room later found her naked and in agony, crying, "He hurt me!" while Arbuckle, dressed in the girl's picture hat, stood by saying, "If she screams again, I'll throw her out of the window." Virginia Rappe died of the injuries he had inflicted.

At the trial the Frame-up ring got hold of one witness after another and "persuaded" them that they had perjured themselves. It went far afield to search out means of throwing mud at the dead girl's character. It saw to it that Judge Lazarus summed up as heavily as he could against the prosecution, describing the chambermaid as "hysterical," and laying the greatest stress upon the points put forward by the more-than-shady witnesses for the defence. And the papers were able to announce that Fatty was "morally acquitted" because the jury was 10 to 2 for acquittal.

But the California bosses don't leave such things as juror's votes to the chances of evidence. The jury was selected in advance, at least in the majority, and its foreman, Fritze, was a well-known agent of the ring. The juror who stood out for conviction, Mrs. Helen Hubbard, now publicly swears that Fritze and others threats of violence and intimidation, also third degree methods, to force her to agree to acquittal. Fritze used to her the words, "I'll knock your —— block off!" Her husband, T. W. Hubbard, was approached by one of the ring (a minor member, Oliva) demanding that he instruct his wife to vote for acquittal. Oliva further said that he (Oliva) would pass the note through to the jury, and that if Hubbard refused he would be ruined.

That is trial by jury in California.

But the Frame-up Ring goes deeper in the mire than that. How did an honest woman, Mrs. Helen Hubbard, find herself on that jury? The Frame-up Ring had "double-crossed" Fatty. It knew he could be bled for more money. and intended that he should have to stand a second trial.

That is United States' Justice. It was that same Frame-up Ring which condemned Tom Mooney to imprisonment for life on an utterly false charge five years ago—and he is still in jail. It is that same system of justice which has now forged a whole case against two Italian-American active trade unionists—Sacco and Vanzetti—and condemned them to death on an equally false charge.

"Tom Mooney's Monthly" writes:—

"Fatty" Arbuckle and motion pictures are inseparable—the Frameup Ring knows this and it is bent on a rich harvest. It knew in advance just what the verdict would be in the Arbuckle trial. Vincent Riccardi exposed this feature of the Frameup Ring's work last year when he showed beyond any doubt the methods of control and the uses to which the Ring put this so-called machinery of justice for its own enrichment. Riccardi showed that it was the sworn policy of the Ring to have disagreements where its victim (the defendant) had not been shaken down for all of his money. If the Ring knew he had more money or opportunities of obtaining it, it would split the jury by placing upon it those who it knew in advance would vote not to agree on a verdict. Some regular acquitters and some regular convicts—thus does it produce a mistrial and open up another avenue to the pockets of "Fatty" and his rich friends.

Now, should "Fatty" and his rich friends in the scab, open-shop, 100 Per Cent "American" plan, motion picture enterprises come clean with enough coin of the realm between now and the time for the next trial, he will never be brought to trial; the case will be dismissed "for lack of sufficient evidence to convict." If he fails to dig up the "dough" in large sums, the Frameup Ring will hold the club of another trial over his head and make him across with many dollars or the big gates of San Quentin prison will await him. In fact, it would not surprise us to see a second disagreement. It would mean more thousands of dollars in the coffers of the Ring.

Most times we think very little of the pious resolutions and hardly annuals which are passed regularly by Labor Party and Trades Union Congresses. But we do think this time that it would be a crime to fail to make at least a verbal protest. The friends who are defending Sacco and Vanzetti, the friends who are still seeking the release of Mooney, specifically ask for protest by the British workers, believing that over there these will have some effect. We must not refuse them.

As for Fatty, we can do little to express our contempt of him and his defenders. "Union Labor is through with Fatty's pictures," says Tom Mooney's Monthly, from America: we suppose, too, that it will be long before a decent working man, or his wife or kids wastes another ninepence over here on the fat beast.

SPRING

By Ernest Todd.

*My passion blooms anew in this young dream,
As if some fervent spirit long suppressed
At last had found a home (a welcome guest)
In my heart's solitude—like some stray beam
Of sunlight tossed upon a wooded stream
That, throughout summer, wears a shaded vest
Of deep-grown foliage and but bares its breast
When autumn turns the dark-green leaves to cream...*

*I would not have it so but that it comes
Unbidden, without summons, from nowhere—
A guest too frank and kind to be denied—
And thrills my heart as of a thousand drums
Suddenly burst upon the quiet air:
The challenge of a shop-girl, April-eyed!*

A Page of Class Struggle

By NAT KAMINSKY

It is almost ancient history in the American class-war—the Albany car strike. It dwindles into insignificance in comparison with the bloody clashes that have occurred since.

Mingo, West Virginia—where the mountains are still wet with the blood of murdered miners, where the Iron Heel of the state ripped off its cloak of democracy, stepped in unmasked and bare, in all its ugliness; crushed and destroyed the lives and homes of the Mingo workers.

Then came Kansas—where the wives and children of the miners got on the picket-line—not even they were spared—no, we to those who dare to stand in the way of profits.

And then came the stockyard strike in Chicago, where the packing-house workers are still battling against tremendous odds, and here too the police did its work—the earth once more received some of the fearless sons of the working-class.

Yet why Albany? Is it on the map as an industrial center?

No.

Albany is the Capitol of the State of New York. Its population numbers about one hundred and fifty thousands. It is largely made up of white collared slaves who work in the various state offices that the city is infested with. The railroad shop workers plus the workers in the smaller industries make up a minor portion of the population.

As you can readily see, a place of this sort, seems to be the last one on earth to have any tendencies towards revolt.

And yet—

It was in the evening of a glorious, quiet day in the latter part of last May, that the writer on the way “to no place in particular” drifted into the city of Albany. He was immediately informed by fellow-tourists that a riot occurred on the previous night and that striking car-men and sympathizers battered and beat up, cars, finks and cops—making a damned good job of it.

Upon further investigation he found that not only were the car-men out, but the building trades, moulders and printers as well.

He aimlessly moped around the town for an half hour or so, picking up bits of information here and there about the sentiment and morale of the strikers. Suddenly a shot rang out and thousands of working-men, women and children rushed to the main streets where the report came from. He was

carried with the current and shortly found himself right in the center of the excitement.

The shot was nothing more however, than the explosion of a fire-cracker, which was placed by some mysterious agency on the car track. Yet the loud report brought masses of workers out of the slums and into the heart of the city where the cars were still running.

At first the crowds that were thickly lined on both sides of the street merely booed and hissed the finks. However, finally seeing that such tactics did not in the least stop the cars from running, they threw their pacific attitude to the wind and rushed at the cars with bricks and other missiles.

Some of the scabs stopped their cars, and ran for their lives with a merciless mob at their heels. Down through side streets and alleys they fled with thousands hot in pursuit. Luckily for them the mounted police came galloping down, reaching the surrounded strike-breakers just in time to save them from being torn to pieces.

Youngsters especially, were conspicuous by their ceaseless activity. They rushed back and forth through the crowd, finding missiles where it seemed none could be found and fired away without a stop—the “cossacks” particularly being a favorite work.

The cork popped out. The patience of the workers in Albany had burst. And with it, all the prejudices and petty hatreds that are ingrained and instilled into the hearts and minds of the American working-class were shattered so completely as if they never existed.

Did not the German accent mix friendly with the Irish brogue? Did not the black mingle with the white? Where were all the imaginary racial differences?—they were destroyed and obliterated in that spontaneous outburst—in that glorious demonstration of working class—solidarity.

It was the time of the new spirit—the spirit that welds together men, women and even children irrespective of race or nationality—the spirit that forges a bond of one class—of one kind.

Albany, Mingo, Kansas and Chicago, a recent page in the American class-war. Where the unguided tempest of the workers wrath flared up, blindly struggled and was mercilessly crushed. The lords of industry may well tremble at the thought of what will happen when the working-class will develop an intelligent portion of it that will combine these isolated skirmishes into one great solid front.

The League in Action

By O. CARLSON, N. O. C. Secretary

There can no longer be any doubt about it. The YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE is a fact—a fact that is growing larger and stronger with each succeeding day. When he looks over the results of work done in the past two months who can doubt the need and desire of the militant youth of America to create a centralized body of the young revolutionists?

The National Organization Committee for the Young Workers League of America that was selected during the middle of January, consisting of comrades Alfred Goetz of the YWL of Detroit; Harry Cantor, YWL of Boston; Harry Gannes, YWL of Chicago; Oliver Carlson, Gus. Schulenberg. and Herman Seligson, YWL of New York; together with comrades Wm. F. Kruse and Caleb Harrison the Workers Party of America—began its work at once.

The Convention Call was issued immediately, and sent to every revolutionary young peoples organization in the country for acceptance. The response to date has been very encouraging. New York, Boston, Detroit, Philadelphia, Schenectady, Los Angeles, Syracuse, are but a few of the many that have answered the call.

Tentative Constitution and Manifesto and Program were prepared by the N. O. C. so that a definite basis for carrying on the work could be established. This appears in another part of this issue of the YOUNG WORKER.

The National Convention will be held in New York City, beginning May 13, 1922. All indications point to a large and successful gathering of the pioneers of the youth movement.

The desire for a unified national organization of the young workers can best be appreciated when we consider the enthusiasm with which the young are responding to the CALL.

The New York Young Workers League, which was the first to begin the agitation for a national organization, has been doing some very fine work recently building up its own organization.

The city league under the able guidance of its new executive committee has launched five new branches: Two Finnish; one Hungarian; and two English. Besides this, the already existing branches are steadily increasing their membership and activities. Lectures and study classes are permanent features of all branches. The Bronx and Down-town YWL's have their own permanent headquarters at 1258 Boston Road and 61 Canal St., respectively.

The Windy-city is out to get the scalp of any and all other YWLs that stand in the way. Chicago

has five branches already, with every member a hustler. Their present membership is about 200, but they have set their eyes on the 500 mark and are determined to reach it. In order that they may be able to send a large delegation to the national convention, they have issued lists which will be distributed to all members, who will then get donations or pledges from all sympathizers.

Philadelphia may have the reputation of being a slow moving city, but this is far from the fact with our young comrades there. In the course of less than two months they have organized four branches of the YWL; one English, one Jewish, one German, and one Italian. "Every member a live-wire" is their motto, and they seem to be living up to it. No stone is being left unturned by them in their attempts to create a mass movement of the young workers in Quaker-town.

Good and consistent work is being done by the Bostonians. The Young Workers League there is progressing nicely. Educational and propaganda meetings are the order of the day. They are of the opinion that WORK counts more than TALK.

Fords may come and Fords may go, but the Y. W. L. of Detroit goes on forever. Nearly all of their members are also busily engaged in Russian Relief work, with Union activities, or are helping to build up the Workers Party—but in spite of these handicaps they refuse to drop League work, insofar as they realize how important it is.

A Paris Commune Ball has been arranged by them, which they hope will straighten out their financial difficulties, and besides enable them to help the national organization.

Los Angeles reports the formation of a YWL which has excellent chances for reaching the thousands of young people in that city. This is the first group on the Pacific coast to rally to our banner, but it will by no means be the last. We expect to hear from Oakland, Portland, Seattle, Spokane, Astoria, and a number of other places. Frisco has already been organized.

From far away Minneapolis comes the report that the YWL there is plugging along steadily. It is not out to break any records just now, but is doing its bit right along and guarantees never to be found wanting should any crisis arise.

The Workers Party locals in Youngstown and Toledo have appointed special committees to undertake the work of gathering the best elements of the revolutionary youth in their respective cities so that YWLs may be organized there as soon as possible.

MANIFESTO AND PROGRAM

(TENTATIVE DRAFT)

Submitted by National Organization Committee of the Y. W. L.

Conditions in the United States

Where is the prosperity, peace and happiness promised by the master class to the workers of this country for their sacrifices during the world war? What are the conditions that actually confront the millions of toilers, young and old, in the United States of America?

During the past year (1921) the army of unemployed has been steadily growing, in spite of the many attempts by municipal, state and national authorities to provide employment for those out of work.

The year 1922 offers no immediate prospect of betterment for the wage earners of this country. The unemployed number at least 6,000,000. Hand in hand with unemployment goes the reduction of wages. This is accomplished in various ways. With such a tremendous army of unemployed walking the streets, it is an easy matter to cow those at work into acceptance of a lower wage scale by replacing them from the ranks of the unemployed. The fear of losing a job is sufficient in many instances to cause the toilers to accept this reduction. This is not only a means of forcing those already at work to accept lower wages, but in innumerable instances the entire force of a factory is thrown out of work purposely to rehire others at very much lower wages.

It is significant to note how the employers are eliminating the older workers and hiring young workers to take their places. Never was there such a golden opportunity for the capitalists to speed up production. Never was there such an opportunity to cut wages. Never was there such an opportunity to lengthen the hours of work.

Another factor is the "Americanization" or "Open Shop" plan. At no time has such a strained effort been made on the part of the employing class to break up the unions. This applies as well to the moderate and purely craft unions as it does to those of an industrial and more revolutionary make-up. Every advance that the workers have gained in their long struggle against the bosses for better conditions is rapidly being snatched away from them. As an example of this consider what is being done to the railroad workers and the coal miners.

In this connection, it is especially noteworthy that the wages of the younger workers are being cut more ruthlessly than are the wages of the older toilers. They are forced to labor under even more oppressive and exacting conditions of employment than are the adult workers.

The farmers in this country are in the same predicament as the industrial workers. Mortgages are being foreclosed by the thousands. Tenant farmers are rapidly on the increase. The pauperization of the agricultural workers goes on apace. Due to high freight rates and low prices paid for grain, the Western farmers burn their grain for fuel. And this while millions go hungry in the United States and Europe is dying of malnutrition!

Almost every organization of the farmers, such as the Non-Partisan League, is broken by the financial capitalists. The Tenants Leagues of the South are frequently terrorized and persecuted into a secret or illegal existence where their effectiveness is wasted. Other farm organizations like the Grangers and Gleaners, pass into the hands of the capitalists and are used by them to lull the agrarian workers into submissiveness and to accept a most miserable exist-

ance. No part of the workingclass is forced to work longer hours and receive as little in return as those who work on the farms.

Ex-soldiers (all of them young) often become thieves and beggars because they are given no work. The American Legion, organized by the ex-officers on behalf of the class conscious capitalists, seeks to retain the militaristic spirit of the war, and to intimidate all workers and workers' organizations which threaten to rouse the proletariat to action against their oppressors. It is an open army, acting on behalf of the employers against the workers. It does not wait for the sanction of authorities, but takes the law into its own hands. By sheer force it carries through its policies.

The colored race, in spite of the supposed equality, is hated and held in contempt by the "whites" — workers as well as employers. Because of this, they are used to scab on their fellow workers. Demagogues of their own blood exploit the negroes for their own mercenary ends, thus creating additional barriers between the colored and white workers. Lynching is still a pastime in the South.

The opportunity for education on the part of the young workers is exceedingly limited. The workers' children are forced out of school before even the elementary grades have been reached, and enter the struggle for existence competing with their parents in the sale of their labor power.

That is America today! The land of "golden opportunity." "Where every child has a chance to become president."

Conditions in Other Countries

What about the rest of the world? England, France, Italy — all are facing the problem of unemployment and the degradation of the workers. In Germany conditions are intolerable. The workers are being forced to the lowest depths of slavery to pay for a war brought about by the capitalists of the world. They fought and died in a war in which they had no interest; and now they must pay for it in tears and blood. Russia, the only country in the world where the working class is in power, suffers the greatest famine known to mankind. This is due mainly to the blockade organized by the capitalists around Russia. World capital realises the danger to its existence if a WORKERS' GOVERNMENT continues to stand out as an inspiration to the workers of the world. In spite of all handicaps, however, the workers and peasants of Russia are gradually improving the economic status of their country. While the rest of the world moves down to chaos, degeneracy and dissolution, Russia alone moves upward and forward to a stable social and economic system which will know no classes and no exploitation.

The Class Struggle and the State

What are the causes underlying these miserable conditions? The fundamental basis of the capitalist system is the production of articles for sale in order to realize profits. A society reared on such a basis cannot function in the interest of the workers, but only benefits those who own the means of production and distribution. These comprise a very small number compared to the population of the country. Private property is the keystone of the system under which we live. Because of it, all laws and institutions exist for the

purpose of perpetuating private property. The workers possess only their labor power, and this they must sell on the open market in order that they may live. The wealth that they produce is far in excess of that which they receive in return for their labor power. Thus there accumulates an ever increasing amount of commodities in one form or another which becomes the property of the capitalists class, and which in turn serves as a means for appropriating the further wealth produced by the workers.

The workers strive to secure as great a portion of the wealth produced as they can. On the other hand, the employers and capitalists use every means at their disposal to reduce the share of the toilers so that they may obtain more. As a result, there arises a conflict between the two classes—the capitalist class and the working class. This conflict becomes more acute with each succeeding year, and oft times results in open combat. **THIS IS THE CLASS STRUGGLE.**

In order properly to protect themselves and their institutions from the efforts of the workers striving to receive a greater portion of what they produce, it has been necessary to create an instrument which functions in the interest of the capitalists as the ruling class. **THIS INSTRUMENT IS THE STATE.** The capitalists' state is an instrument of power in the hands of the ruling class wielded to perpetuate the capitalist class and to keep the workers in subjection. The state does not always reveal itself as an armed power, except when the occasion demands. In this country it is camouflaged under the term of "democracy", where all the "people" have "equal rights." True, they have equal property rights—but the workers have no property! Whenever the workers rebel against the intolerable conditions under which they are forced to exist, equality ceases, and police constabulary, federal troops and militia, as well as private armed thugs, are called upon to enforce "law and order." Remember Ludlow, Calumet, Lawrence, Bethlehem, Seattle, West Virginia and the Steel Strike! Peaceful picketing is forbidden by law. Injunctions are issued indiscriminately against the workers, and the government threatens that strikes by the workers in basic industries (coal strike, railroad strike) will be considered as action directed against the United States government.

Every class struggle is a political struggle. The class in power utilizes every means at its disposal to crush and subdue the workers. The workers, laboring under the illusion that theirs is simply a struggle against an individual boss or corporation, do not perceive that the government is a hand-maid of the bosses, used by them against the workers whenever a critical situation arises.

Imperialism, War and the Youth

The acquisition of wealth by the capitalist class leaves in their hands a large mass of products which cannot be consumed by them. The very life of the present economic system depends upon having markets for the disposal of the surplus created by the toilers. The markets of the world are limited in number and do not expand in proportion with the accumulation of surplus commodities resulting from the technical and industrial development of capitalism. The colonial markets when thoroughly exploited, themselves become producers.

The contradiction between the mode of production and distribution of commodities has led to periodic crises in the economic and social life of all capitalist nations. These crises have served as safety valves for the capitalist system. They have taken the form (1) Stoppage of Industry. (2) WAR.

(1) The cycle of years intervening between each industrial depression (panic) has been steadily narrowing in proportion to the development of capitalism. These crises have become greater in scope and intensity with each reappearance. In the past it was only by allowing millions to starve because of the stoppage of industry due to overproduction that a temporary alleviation was affected. The panic of 1913—14 was diverted only by the outbreak of the war.

The war with its seven years of murder and devastation, not only used up the surplus products that had been created, but destroyed the economic life of nearly all of the nations involved. The entire credit system lost its balance, and fictitious capital increased in proportion as productive capital kept diminishing. All of the resources of production and distribution were used for war purposes. Speculation, high prices, and fevered production during the two years immediately following the war led to the belief that capitalism would survive the crises of the world conflict, and that the reconstruction of industry and the devastated areas had opened up new fields of expansion for many years to come. But the sorry spectacle of the past year has proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that this was not so. "The present crises is not a periodic stage of the normal industrial cycle, but a profound reaction consequent upon the artificial stimulation that prevailed during the war and during the two years thereafter" and is based upon ruination and exhaustion. The situation that faces us today—the greatest industrial depression ever known—is international in its scope, and is not the result of over-production but under-production.

Under the influence of the war, the industries of the United States expanded to a degree out of all proportion to their former size. The United States, as the world provider, came out the war far richer than it went into it, and with the bulk of the world's gold supply in its coffers. The European nations are indebted to it to the extent of ten billions of dollars. Europe, ruined and exhausted by the war cannot meet its debts. Its credit system is completely shattered.

As a result, there is a dire shortage of markets, and the shops must close. Production is curtailed and moves steadily downward. Temporary waves of "prosperity" may take place here and there, but they will be short-lived—and will be followed by even greater depressions. "The crumbling of the very foundation of industry is only beginning, and is going to proceed along the whole line."

(2) The other outlet for the accumulated has been WAR. Capitalism thrives on waste; and over the bodies of the millions of slaughtered and maimed workers who have fought the battles for the master class, have been built up the fabulous fortunes and the power of the bourgeoisie.

The industrial and financial magnates found their surplus growing so rapidly that they had to expand into new and undeveloped territories. They have invested their surplus in the industrially backward countries of Asia, Africa, and South America. The native population has been oppressed and terrorized into submission to the dictates of American and European Capital. These countries have become more colonies, possessing not the slightest vestige of freedom—and the exploitation of the colonial peoples knows no equal. This is the latest phase of capitalist development—IMPERIALISM. Finance-capital is the controlling factor in capitalism today and plays the leading part in Imperialism.

The United States took a leading part in this policy of "peaceful penetration" during the past decade. The Spanish-American War, which resulted in the transfer of power over

the West Indies and the Philippines to the United States, gave the impetus to Imperialist expansion by this country. Since that time, Central America and Mexico have been falling more and more into the hands of the American banking and industrial interests. Practically the whole of South America is considered a special field for exploitation by the United States.

The cruelties imposed upon the natives in Porto Rico, Haiti, and the Philippines by the military and civil authorities appointed by the United States, stand side by side with the atrocities of the English and Belgians in India, Egypt, and the Congo.

War and Youth

The young must bear the brunt of all the fighting, suffering, and economic oppression that results from war. They are cajoled or forced to become the cannon-fodder for the master class.

During the war just passed, they gave up their lives on behalf of the financiers and industrial capitalists of this country. Over one hundred thousand of them were slain on the field of battle. Several times that many were wounded or crippled for life. The very flower of youth and manhood perished in the Central European countries. America almost met the same fate.

The basis for wars will exist so long as capitalism remains. Disarmament conferences, such for example as the Washington Conference, in no way prevent the expansion of the economic forces making for new and ever greater conflicts. Only such instruments of destruction are being scrapped as can be replaced by more deadly, more hideous weapons of warfare.

The young of the working-class form the backbone of all imperialist armies of the world. Their blood is shed so that capitalism may expand. They are used, not only to oppress and enslave the more backward peoples, and to slaughter the proletariat of other nations, but they are utilized to force and coerce their fellow workers in their country to accept the miserable lot apportioned them.

The slogan of the revolutionary youth must be: **DOWN WITH ALL CAPITALIST WARS!** Their struggle against militarism is not and cannot be a pacifist one. It is the struggle of a militant, unarmed class against its armed oppressors. In this struggle, the young workers must lead the way. Upon them falls the task of crushing that mighty instrument—**MILITARISM**, and with it **CAPITALISM**.

International Working Class Organizations

Insofar as the system of exploitation is international in scope the workers have found it necessary to combat capitalism in the same way. A thorough readjustment of our entire social system on a world-wide scale is necessary.

The so-called Second International is the oldest of the existing international working-class organizations. Prior to the war it counted within its ranks millions of workers. It was a loosely formed organization with no obligations upon the sections affiliated with it. It did not fight to abolish capitalism, but to reform it. When the war began, it was inevitable that this International should collapse. Its leaders became social patriots and supporters of their respective governments in the war. It can no longer be considered an International of the working-class; it has become the betrayer of the workers, and the lackey of capitalism. Its present efforts to revive will be in vain.

The International organized since the close of the war and known as the Second—and—a-half International, is a typical Centrist organization—revolutionary in phrases and compromising in deeds. Such an organization is even more dangerous than the Second International. It deserves the condemnation of all the workers.

Due to the traitorous activities of the Second International, and the vacillating policy of the Second—and—a-half International, the revolutionary workers of the world are rallying to the banners of the Third, the Communist International. This International stands forth as the one uncompromising enemy of capitalism. Every year its ranks swell in numbers as the workers of the world perceive that it alone can guide them in their struggle for emancipation.

The revolutionary proletarian youth, the first to break away from the traitorous Second International, refused to join the compromising Second—and—a-half International when it was formed, having already created their own organization, which represents the interests of the proletarian youth—The Young Communist International. This International with nearly a million valient young workers enlisted under its banner, leads the way, side by side with the Communist International, in the final struggle, forward and onward to the International Proletarian Revolution.

Function of the Young Workers' League

The Young Workers' League of America declares that the way out of the intolerable situation in which the workers find themselves today is to organize into a compact, centralized, militant organization to fight the battle of the workers both on the economic and political field.

The working class youth is confronted with problems of its own. For this reason a separate organization such as the **YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE** is needed to unite all militant young workers of city and farm into one organization, striving to aid the young people in their fight against capitalism, to train and to educate them to understand that the problems of the young workers of America are the problems of the young workers of the world. The struggle of the young workers however, is not an isolated struggle. It is the struggle of the working class as a whole. Only by concerted effort of all workers can their problem be solved.

The present system is doomed to destruction. In its efforts to reach and to alleviate the intolerable conditions of the proletarian youth of America, the **YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE** is conscious of the fact that struggle for immediate betterment can in no way be an end in itself, and it emphatically seeks to point this out to the young workers. The aim of the **YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE OF AMERICA** is the abolition of capitalism by means of the **WORKERS REPUBLIC** — a government functioning through the power of the proletariat to the exclusion of all other classes as the first step toward the establishment of an International Classes society free from all political and economic slavery.

Working Program

The **YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE** is aware that the proletariat does not move on the basis of ideals but rather on the concrete facts of life. In its struggle to win to its side the masses of youthful toilers in this country, the **YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE**, seeks to reach them in the first instance by participating in the struggle of the working class youth for a better chance to live, and therefore presents a working program, stressing the most vital issues

that confront the youth. But in striving to attain these demands, the ultimate goal is neither overlooked nor abandoned. By participating in these struggles, we demonstrate to the workers the utter futility and hopelessness of REFORMING the present system, thereby showing the acute need for completely abolishing capitalism and instituting the WORKERS REPUBLIC. It is primarily through action that the workers come to a realization of this fact.

Education

In conformity with its conception that the educational activities of YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE must be derived from the actual experience and participation by the proletarian youth in the everyday struggles of the workers, THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE proposes to carry on its work under the following headings:

I. Educational work within the organization.

II. Educational work among the masses.

I. The class struggle and the relation of the individual worker to it can best be derived through and understanding of the objective conditions in society that bring about the struggle for power between the wage workers and the employing class. But at the same time the theoretical basis of the present system, its relation to previous social systems, the function of the state, the economies of capitalism which has led to its bankruptcy, and the historic mission of the proletariat to inaugurate a new system of society—all this must be understood by those who stand as a vanguard in the army of the exploited CLARITY AND ACTION is our motto.

Within the League there must be conducted intensive educational work, not the academic kind, but rather the vital, the dynamic, drawing from the outstanding facts of the class struggle as it rages today the proper, theoretical (Marxian) conclusions.

(a) Study classes must be organized in every branch of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE.

(b) Special attention must be given in the press of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE to the economic conditions of the workers in America, their problems, the form and structure of labor unions as applied to the young, and particular study course outlines should be furnished to all branches on these questions.

(c) Lectures and speakers should be furnished at regular intervals to the city and branch organizations to speak on various vital questions confronting the workers.

(d) Every city organization should issue a local bulletin (mimeographed or typewritten) containing news of the branches, and notes of industrial and political conditions within the community. Every member should be urged to contribute to the bulletins.

II. In striving to reach the masses of young workers outside the organization, it is necessary to show them by force of example that the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE is interested in their welfare and will support them in their battles, not only in words but in deeds.

(a) Intensive and extensive educational and organizational work will be carried on by the League to familiarize the working youth with the need and purpose of belonging to labor unions.

(b) Organizing mass demonstrations in the industrial centers to bring to the fore vital issues and broach to the proletariat means for settling questions to their interest.

(c) Distribution of official organ and special

literature dealing with conditions of the young and workers generally.

(d) Special agitation amongst the students and agrarian youth to familiarize them with their conditions in society and their need for uniting with the industrial proletariat for a common basis of action.

Political

THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE is not a political party. It is a political organization, however, in that it realizes that every class struggle is a political struggle; and as such directs its efforts toward the abolition of capitalist government and the institution of a working class government. The YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE acknowledges that in this struggle every means at the disposal of the working class must be utilized, including the participation in electoral campaigns.

It further understands that in all fields of activities, including parliamentary activities, it must co-operate with the revolutionary political party of the workers in this country—THE WORKERS' PARTY OF AMERICA.

This party recognizes that the parliamentary tribunals can be used only to point out to workers the fallacies of bourgeois "democracy" and for agitational and propaganda purposes; not for the institution of reforms. This party recognizes that the inauguration of a workers' Republic cannot be attained by "voting the working class into power." The only immediate demands it may set forth in its platform from time to time are such as will facilitate the prosecution of the revolutionary struggles of the workers (among others, compelling the capitalists to enforce their own laws guaranteeing the right of free assemblage in case of strikes, the right of peaceful picketing, etc.; the abolition of injunctions against labor organizations.)

Understanding this to be the function of the Workers' Party, the YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE pledges its co-operation and support as long as this party remains true to the task it has undertaken; to rouse and rally the masses to action.

In addition to participation in the general activities of the workers on the political field, THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE will agitate and work for certain demands of particular concern to the youthful toilers, and request the active support of the party of the revolutionary adult workers. The following demands will serve as a guide in this sphere of activity:

(a) Federal law prohibiting all children from engaging in any kind of labor until they have reached the age of sixteen.

(b) Enactment of a constitutional amendment to go into effect immediately prohibiting conscription for military service of any kind.

(c) Federal law providing ways and means of giving higher education to all young people desiring it to the age of 20 inclusive; appropriations for same to be made from the military and naval budgets.

Economic

The working class can never successfully cope with the bosses on the job unless they are in possession of a strong and militant organization on the economic field.

The workers in this country organized into labor unions number somewhat more than 5,000,000, most of them consisting of the skilled workers. The percentage of the young

people up to the age of 25 within the unions is in no way proportionate to the number of workers up to that age employed in industry and commerce. The large majority of all of the workers in this country are still outside of these economic organizations. The greatest percentage of them are the young workers. No factor is so influential in making the unions progressive as the young; and yet but few of them are organized. The small number of apprentice unions in this country is decreasing rapidly and plays no part in the general labor movement.

Most of the unions still have barriers in the form of age limitations, experience qualifications or other regulations which prevent the young from coming into the unions.

In order that the trade unions may become militant organs of the class struggle, the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE will actively strive to bring the young into these organizations, who through their enthusiasm, spirit and understanding will break down the bureaucracy of the reactionary leaders of today, and revolutionize these organizations. In preparation for inaugurating this work, the following will serve as a basis:

(a) Demand that all members of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE join the unions of the respective trade or industry.

(b) Agitate within the unions to remove any and all barriers that prevent the young workers from becoming regular members.

(c) Agitate within the unions for an extensive and intensive campaign by the unions themselves to organize the young within their respective trades and industries.

(d) To lend active assistance to unions on strike, in any locality where a branch of the YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE exists.

(e) To agitate for a six-hour day for all young workers up to the age of 20 who are to receive the regular union rate of wages paid employees in the respective industries, and the abolition of all overtime and night work for them.

(f) Agitation within the unions for the organization of the farm laborers and unskilled workers in this country.

Agricultural

The young farm laborers, as well as the children of the farmers, are beset with many evils growing out of the division of society into classes, and the practical monopoly of the wealth and the means of production by the capitalist class. At a very early age, the children on the farms are put to work. Eighty per cent of the child labor in this country is employed on the farms. The rural school system is adjusted particularly so as to permit the farmer to exploit his children during the planting and harvesting season.

The heavy burdens imposed upon the agrarian youth is but the reflection of the intolerable conditions forced upon the farmers. The number of farmers owning land is steadily decreasing, only 22 per cent having clear title at the present time. To meet the demands of the banks, the farmers must toil day and night, stinting themselves and their children, and in many instances live below the standard of the poorly paid city worker. The outlook for the farming youth under the present system of society is hopeless. The future holds forth only a miserable existence as the unbearable conditions foisted upon the agrarian population intensifies. The mortgage ridden farm, with all its enslaving adjuncts, will be thrown upon the shoulders of the farm-

er's children. The great majority of the young on the farms realize their miserable state, and strive to get away from it in the only way they can see open to them—by leaving the farms. The result is they become city proletarians.

Agricultural schools, corn clubs and the like are created throughout the country to attract the youthful farm workers and to induce them to stay on the farm. These organizations endeavor to teach the young how to produce more, and this so that the stock markets may be able to speculate more heavily. They fail, because the farming youth, exhausted by hard work, seeks recreation to relieve their monotonous existence. Though the hours are long and the work hard, the young on the farm receive less in return than any other class of labor.

THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE of AMERICA calls to the attention of the rural youth that their struggle is our struggle; that their liberation from the drudgery and monotony and poverty of farm life can come only as a result and in conjunction with the liberation of the industrial workers of this country from their chains of wage slavery.

Educational Institutions

The educational system of this country is in every respect in the hands of the capitalist class. The workers receive neither sufficient education nor the proper kind. Despite the great cry of public school education for all statistics show that the majority of the children of the workers are forced to leave school before completing the sixth grade. The percentage of them that obtain a high school, and, especially a university training, is very small indeed. The amount of illiteracy in this country as shown by the army tests is indeed appalling.

The education that is dispensed, combines in itself the subtle propaganda of making the young staunch defenders of the present system, and of holding up to them the conception that the honest, energetic, faithful and hard working man or woman will be rewarded by becoming a captain of industry.

Children cannot assimilate the lessons properly when forced to go to school hungry, as is the case with more than three million children in this country every day in the year.

While we realize the bias of public school education today, still it is better than none at all, and must be encouraged if for no other reason than to keep the children out of the mines, mills and factories. We, therefore, make the following demands:

(a) No child shall be permitted to leave school before completing a two-year's high-school education. Municipalities to provide for the maintenance of the children where the parents are unable to afford the expense.

(b) All children must be provided with at least one free meal per day while attending school.

(c) The encouraging of and the right of children in public schools to organize students councils which will discuss the policies and activities of the schools and investigate and consider cases of discrimination. The students councils to be the only bodies to determine reprimands and punishment.

(d) The creation of students councils in the higher schools and colleges which shall have the power to determine school policies; recommend dismissal or non-dismissal of instructors, and shall be the only body in the institutions to suspend or expell students.

CONSTITUTION

Tentative draft. Basis for organizing branches of the Y. W. L.

ARTICLE I. — NAME AND PURPOSE.

Sec. 1. The name of the organisation shall be the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA**.

Sec. 2. Its purpose shall be to organize and educate the young of the working class to understand their true position in capitalist society, to work for the abolition of capitalism and to aid in the establishment of a **WORKERS REPUBLIC**—a government functioning through the power of the proletariat to the exclusion of all other classes—as the first step towards the establishment of an **INTERNATIONAL CLASSLESS SOCIETY**, free from all political and economic slavery.

ARTICLE II. — EMBLEM.

Sec. 1. The emblem of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE** shall be a crossed hammer and sickle on a five pointed star, surrounded by a circular margin, having at the top the words **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA**, and underneath the words **CLARITY AND ACTION**.

ARTICLE III. — MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1. All young people between the ages of 14 to 30 shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Every applicant for membership shall have expressed his or her willingness to enter and abide by the rules and regulations of the organization, shall have paid the required initiation fee, and must be recommended by two members in good standing in the branch in which application is tendered.

Sec. 3. Every applicant to the organisation must become a member of the study class conducted by the particular branch to which he makes application.

Sec. 4. Applicants to membership shall sign the following application card:

"I, the undersigned, being familiar with and having read the **CONSTITUTION**, **MANIFESTO** and **PROGRAM** of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE** do hereby acknowledge that I am willing to join in the activities of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE**, and be bound by its rules and regulations, and affirm that I intend to take an active part in the function of the **Y. W. L.**"

Sec. 5. Every applicant for membership shall pay initiation fee and dues when application is made. Final acceptance for membership shall be made at the following meeting. This rule shall not apply to the charter members of a new branch nor to those who make application to the newly organized branches during the first month.

ARTICLE IV. — UNITS OF ORGANISATION.

Sec. 1. The unit of organisation of the **Y. W. L.** shall be the **BRANCH**, to consist of not less than five members.

Sec. 2. Two or more branches in the same city shall form a city central committee. The city central committee may include branches in adjacent territory where no city central exists.

ARTICLE V. — ADMINISTRATION.

Sec. 1. The supreme body of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA** shall be the Convention of the League.

Sec. 2. Between conventions the National Executive Committee elected by the convention shall be the supreme body and shall direct all the activities of the League.

Sec. 3. The City Central Committee shall have the power to supervise the activities of the branches within its jurisdiction.

Sec. 4. Language branches of the League shall have the same relation to the City Central and the National body as the English speaking branches.

Sec. 5. Language Propaganda Committees shall be appointed by the N. E. C. (whenever it is deemed necessary) to supervise the work amongst the foreign youth. The Language Propaganda Committees shall be directly responsible to the N. E. C.

ARTICLE VI. — CONVENTIONS.

Sec. 1. The convention is the supreme body of the **Y. W. L.** and shall be called by the National Executive Committee at least once a year.

Sec. 2. Emergency Conventions, with all the powers of regular conventions may be called by the N. E. C. or upon demand of organisations representing 40 per cent of the membership.

Sec. 3. The number of delegates to the National Convention shall be determined by the N. E. C. Delegates shall be apportioned to the city central committee according to membership based upon average dues paid for the period of three months prior to the call for the convention. Delegates to the National Convention shall be elected at a city convention, with proportional representation for all branches.

ARTICLE VII. — NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Sec. 1. Between conventions the National Executive Committee shall be the supreme body of the League and shall direct all its activities.

Sec. 2. The N. E. C. shall consist of seven members elected by the convention. The convention shall also elect five alternates, to fill vacancies in order of vote. When the list of alternates are exhausted the N. E. C. shall have the right of selection.

Sec. 3. The N. E. C. shall elect an Executive Secretary, a Chairman, and all others officers.

Sec. 4. All press and propaganda activities shall be under the full control of the N. E. C.

ARTICLE VIII. — DISCIPLINE.

Sec. 1. The N. E. C. shall have the power to suspend or expel individual members, branches, or city organisations.

Sec. 2. No branch of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA** shall have the power to expel a member, but shall have the power to suspend such member pending action of the city central committee which body shall have the power to expel or suspend members recommended by branches for expulsion or suspension.

Sec. 3. Where no City Central Committee exists, branches have the rights of the City organisation.

Sec. 4. Every member shall have the right of appeal, whether expelled or suspended, to the next higher body.

ARTICLE IX. — DUES.

Sec. 1. Each applicant for membership shall pay initiation fee of 25 cents which shall be receipted for by an initiation stamp furnished by the N. E. C. The entire sum shall go to the National office.

Sec. 2. Each member shall pay 25 cents per month

for dues stamps which shall be sold to the city central committee for ten cents. The city central committee shall sell the dues stamps to the branches for fifteen cents, which, in turn, are to sell them to their membership for the full amount of 25 cents.

Sec. 3. Special assessments may be levied by the N. E. C. or National Convention.

Sec. 4. Members unable to pay dues on account of unemployment, strikes, sickness, or for similar reasons, shall upon application to their financial secretary be furnished with exempt stamps. The number of exempt stamps shall not exceed 15 per cent of regular dues purchased by each city central committee, per month.

Sec. 5. Members who are two months in arrears in payment of their dues shall cease to be members of the Y. W. L. in good standing. Members who are four months in arrears shall be stricken from the rolls.

Sec. 6. No member shall be permitted to pay advance dues for more than three months.

ARTICLE X. — MEETINGS.

Sec. 1. Every branch shall hold at least one business and one educational meeting a month.

ARTICLE XI. — HEADQUARTERS.

Sec. 1. The National Headquarters of the Y. W. L. shall be located in the city designated by the convention.

ARTICLE XII. — QUALIFICATIONS.

Sec. 1. Members of the N. E. C. must have been members of the Y. W. L. for one year at the time of their nomination, or hold membership in any organization affiliated as a body within sixty days after the first convention.

GREETINGS FROM THE YOUNG COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

The following letter was received from the Berlin Bureau of the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International, addressed to the National Organization Committee of the Young Workers League:

"Dear Comrades:

"We received your letter of February 5 and 22, and copies of convention call and tentative constitution, which we have forwarded to our E. C. Many thanks for all this interesting material.

"We shall be very pleased to receive regularly your official organ THE YOUNG WORKER so as to be able to follow the movement in America.

"In return we shall forward you all our publications, and are ready also to supply you with particulars about the movement in Europe. We have already mailed to you a number of copies of our different publications, and we hope that they will reach you safely. Please state if you received same. We are also sending you copies of our constitution and program. Will you please send us also yours as soon as it is ready.

"As soon as we get any slides we shall forward some to you. Just now none are at hand.

"Re-work amongst agrarian youth and in the unions, you will find particulars in our papers, which will be mailed to you regularly.

"Hoping to hear from you again soon, and with best greetings to our revolutionary comrades in the States, we remain,

"Fraternally yours,

"The Berlin Bureau of the E. C. of the Young Communist International."

The Young Communist League of Great Britain write us in part saying:

"We must congratulate you for the splendid progress you have made. We are still grappling with the problem of our national convention." ... Your invitation to send a delegate to your national convention will be under consideration of our E. C. ..."

SPREAD THE MESSAGE

There has never been in this country a revolutionary mouth-piece of the young workers that has been widely circulated. The youth of the working-class under the influence of capitalist education have to a great extent been impregnable to revolutionary ideas.

Before the working-class can emancipate itself from the miseries of capitalism, the youthful toilers must be made to feel that they can gain nothing as individuals; that their interest is inseparably tied up with that of the entire working class.

We must carry the message of class solidarity to them.

The news of the struggle of the revolutionary youth should be disseminated wherever the young of the working-class slave away their lives.

THE YOUNG WORKER strives to become the voice of the exploited masses of young workers. It is for and to the young workers that it speaks. They should read it. They must read it.

Only by the help of every class conscious young worker who gets a copy of this paper can its circulation among the youth of this country be increased until it shall be a power fighting the struggles of the young laborers.

Young worker! We count on your support.

Spread this organ of militant, working-class youth.

Write in for bundle orders.

Sign subscription blank below and mail it now!

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

THE YOUNG WORKER

Room 405—799 Broadway

New York City

Enclosed find ONE DOLLAR in payment for one year's subscription to "The Young Worker"

Name

Address

City State



CONVENTION CALL

COMRADES:

The time has come when the working class youth of this country must take the initiative in creating a solid front against their common enemy—the capitalist class, which oppresses and enslaves them, which dwarfs their bodies and poisons their minds. The young workers must be roused to action against the exploiters who force them into the hell-holes of industry to do the hardest and most disagreeable kind of work. When war is necessary to expand the capitalists' field of exploitation, these young workers are sent to be the cannon fodder. Upon their return (those who do return) their oppression and exploitation becomes greater than ever before. This applies to the working class youth generally—agrarian and industrial. These are the facts of the case, and yet no organization exists which can rally these millions of young wage slaves into a compact fighting organization.

The time is ripe for action. The need for a national organization of the youthful toilers embracing proletarian students as well as the workers in the industries and on the farms was never more imperative than now. Therefore we, the undersigned organization, through the national organization committee of the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA**, call upon ALL young peoples' organizations to unite with us in a joint convention to be held in New York beginning May 13, 1922, upon the basis of the following points to launch the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA** as the fighting vanguard of the working class youth.

1) **UNITY** of all existing militant young workers, organizations in this country. Unity, not in words alone, but the unity which comes from an understanding of our common interest in the struggle for working class emancipation.

2) **OUR AIM TO BE THE ABOLITION OF CAPITALISM** by means of the **WORKERS' REPUBLIC** — a government functioning through the power of the proletariat to the exclusion of all other classes—as the first step towards the establishment of an **INTERNATIONAL CLASSLESS SOCIETY**, free from all political and economic slavery.

3) **A MASS ORGANIZATION.** Our attitude must be to educate and to organize as large a section of the Young Workers as can possibly be reached. In order to accomplish this we must strive to reach them at whatever points they congregate or work (shops, factories, stores, mines, schools, farms, trade unions etc.) Our tactics must be such as to win the broad masses of working youth to our point of view.

4) **A MILITANT ORGANIZATION.** The first step towards making the YWL a mass organization can be accomplished if we make it an active, aggressive body that **FIGHTS** for the interests of the working class in general and the young workers in particular. It must show its sincerity and purpose, not only through words but through **DEEDS**.

5) **EDUCATION THROUGH ACTIVITY**; that is to say, education through active participation in the everyday struggles of the working class as the **ESSENTIAL FEATURE** in training the young workers. Study classes, lectures, debates, etc. must likewise be carried on in every league to furnish the theoretical **MARXIAN** background for the youth.

6) **CONDEMNATION OF THE** young peoples Internationals and organizations affiliated or sympathising with the Second or Second-and-a-half Internationals and recognition of the Young Communist and Communist Internationals as the real leaders of the revolutionary workers of the world.

7) **ORGANIZATIONS SUBSCRIBING TO THE CONVENTION CALL**, and sending delegate to the convention must agree to merge into the **YOUNG WORKERS' LEAGUE OF AMERICA**.

All organization subscribing to the above call write in to O. Carlson secretary, Young Workers League, Room 405, 799 Broadway, New York.