

The American Proletariat Turns Toward the Revolutionary Path

By J. ZACK.

CONSTERNATION in the camp of the bourgeoisie, panic amongst the social-fascists: this was the aftermath of March 6 in the U.S.A. The American proletariat considered so "sane" and "orderly" by the bourgeoisie and its labor lieutenants had with a powerful voice announced the fact that the old bourgeois reformist tomfoolery will go no more, March 6 was the historic day on which the American proletariat made the turn from its past and joined the ranks of the international revolutionary proletariat. The vastness of the movement was a revelation even to those who at the time of the VI Congress predicted that a break in the upward development of American imperialism was about to take place; 1,000,000 workers actively participated in the street demonstrations and at least another 500,000 turned out to witness it. Never in the history of the U.S.A. had anything like it take place. It was a day that shook the world.

In order to understand the new turn in the U.S.A. and the perspective arising therefrom it is necessary to mention the main factors driving the American proletariat towards the revolutionary path, that it the economic causes the effects of which have now been registered by the action of the workers on March 6.

The rapid growth of bourgeois economy in the U.S.A., given its rich natural resources and plentiful immigration was based primarily upon the growth of the agrarian petty-bourgeoisie, the farmer, who constantly taking new territory under cultivation and improving the old, provided an ever expanding inner market. The millions of immigrants streaming in from Europe and South America supplied the huge industries that developed on the basis of these vast inner markets with sufficient and relatively cheap labor power.

Under such conditions, the petty-bourgeoisie was having a furious growth, that is hundreds of thousands of workers yearly could "emancipate" themselves by becoming petty-bourgeois, by going into farming or opening a store in the city. Hence the workers had not a class ideal but a petty-bourgeois ideal of saving up their wages and going into business. The motto was: "Me first and devil take the hindmost;" this provided the American bourgeoisie with a relatively peaceful labor situation which was a potent factor in its economic development.

Now It's Different.

All the factors which formerly made for the economic superiority of the U. S. A. now stand

Party has also adopted this method and the results are splendid.

This is a difficult undertaking, but with a little perseverance on our part, it can be carried thru successfully.

The above program deserves the fullest support of every comrade. The success of this can be insured by the making the \$10,000 drive of the Workers School a 100 per cent success. The response to the drive must be immediate. The preparatory work must commence at once. Therefore

A \$10,000 fund by April 19th.

For a Workers School in every district.

For a Home Study Course.

Send funds to Workers School Drive Committee, Alexander Trachtenberg, treasurer, 26 Union Square, N. Y. C.

on their head. Industry does not expand any longer, even in the height of prosperity it operated only at 80 per cent of capacity but its very hugeness permits of far superior inner technical transformation, and speed-up than in any other country, because the industry instead of by its growth absorbing hundreds of thousands of new workers yearly throws them out and this on as big a scale as the industry itself.

The effect of this superior industry upon agriculture (there is no more free land) is to knock out the small farmer on a truly American scale. Thus, it came about that even before the crisis about four million were divorced from their means of making a living, these four million, of course, did not lie down and die, they went about and displaced others for less pay, thus all in all it came about that eight million or more really were part employed.

The result of all this was that the ranks of the proletariat were swelled by millions who formerly made a living from petty-business but the opportunity to get work continually kept on decreasing. Thus, we have now wholesale expropriation instead of growth of the petty-bourgeoisie. Thus, it came about that the majority of the workers and their families were destitute even when the crisis broke out. The hundreds of thousands of immigration who still keep on coming in spite of all restrictions, immigrants who formerly fructified the rich natural resources of the U. S. A. and supplied the industries with plentiful skilled and unskilled labor, are now so much more additional dynamite under the bourgeois social structure. Relief for these completely destitute millions, the American bourgeoisie who is accustomed only to take but not to give, has not provided, the American workers are forced into the degraded position of begging for charity, hence now that the crisis has broken out, these millions of workers completely destitute have only one choice that is to fight, as no one wants to die for the glory of Wall Street. The economic basis, for the petty-bourgeois ideal of "going into business" has disappeared even before the crisis, now the American proletariat is beginning under the pressure of the crisis also to cast off its petty-bourgeois reformist ideology.

And Bread Lines!

Hunger lines of eight to twelve thousand in a line waiting for a miserable plate of tinned soup or coffee and a piece of bread. Tens of thousands of families evicted by the landlords with their furniture in the street, machine guns, armored cars and tear gas marching up against the hungry, this is the new U. S. A.

The American workers have not much of a tradition of street demonstrations, their coming out by the hundreds of thousands in response to the call of the Communist Party is therefore of so much greater significance. Particularly in view of the fact that these were not "police permit" demonstrations but exactly the contrary, they took place as prohibited demonstrations in spite and against the police, and the militancy displayed by the masses against the police was not lagging behind Europe, it was at par with, if not even better, than in Germany. The demonstrations have given the lie to all the reformists about the backwardness and fossilized reformism of the American workers and have shown that

three villages. It has 99 tractors, 94 tractor courses, 370 hawes, 25 drills.

The young people study in tractor courses. A children's creche was organized in the commune during the summer, and a playground for thirty young comrades. There is a public bake house, and in the fields, during work time, there is common board.

The commune is growing, strengthening, ripening like a good apple. And there is more to follow. Only a year and a half have passed since the birth of the collective farm. It has scarcely had time to get on its feet and make its first few steps.

And what will it be when the people of Kriush are able to manage their collective farm according to all the principles of agricultural science, when they exert their creative forces to the full, when they organize labor and life as they ought to be organized, when they acquire the necessary knowledge.

Learning to Read.

In Kriush there used to be 70 per cent of illiterates. A terrible figure. It is only recently that the people of Kriush have been able to learn to read. In the collective farm there are five points where adults are instructed, and 330 people are learning to read. Half of them are women. They study by shifts, willingly and stubbornly.

Nina, the Pioneer, a little fair-haired girl, relates the following about her fifty year old mother who is learning to read and write.

"Well, how is she getting on?"

The Communist Party is rapidly becoming the acknowledged spokesman of the American working class.

To understand this rapid development of the American workers along the revolutionary path, it is necessary to point out certain similarities of Russian revolutionary movements of the pre-revolutionary days and the U. S. A. The American workers, like the Russian, have never been in the grip of a strong social-democratic organization, they followed the bourgeoisie through the A. F. of L. which made no class struggle pretensions whatsoever. But now that the turn has come they do not go first to social-democracy, as Pepper thought, but go right straight to the Communists. They are driven to fight hence they willingly, without any "reformist bridges" follow the revolutionary tactics of the Comintern.

The traditional brutality of the American bourgeoisie against the workers was always a severe lesson to the American proletariat but as long as there was as yet sufficient to live on, they noted the terrorism but the mass of them were not affected, hence did not respond as a class, hence it appeared that the bourgeois democracy humbug held full sway over them. Now it is becoming quite clear to them that the further existence of Wall Street government is incompatible with their everyday material interests. Now that they turn against the bourgeoisie, they realize that bourgeois democracy is empty talk, they see clearly the mailed fist of their class enemy, and although inexperienced in the ways of the class struggle, they take their inspiration from their fighting class brothers in Europe, hence the battle is similar to Russia right from the start not in parliament but in the street.

Fresh to the Battle.

The American proletariat is not a beaten proletariat; it is entering fresh into the struggle; it is now 32 million strong and these millions, together with their dependents, represent the great majority of the population. To it, as an ally must now be added the great mass of the farm population who are now being driven to the wall by monopoly capital. In this vast revolutionary reservoir now being aroused lies the base for surprisingly rapid and large revolutionary development.

(To be continued.)