The Party Outlook.


Published in Communist Labor, v. 1, no. 3 (Feb. 25, 1920), pg. 8.

Right from the outset we want to assure all who are interested that the condition of the Communist Labor Party is, at this writing, most satisfactory, if all we have had to face in the last month is taken into account.

We do not claim that the raids and the arrests and the indictments did not hamper the work of the organization. The energy and money which would have been spent in education and organization had to, for the time being, be given to defense and relief.

As may be known, the National Office [208 E 12th Street, New York] was included in the Red Raids. Party supplies were confiscated, money was stolen out of the cash drawer, and L.E. Katterfeld, organization director, who happened to be the only person in the office at the time, was taken to the New York City Department of Justice headquarters, questioned, and shipped with hundreds of others to Ellis Island. He was kept there three days and until his citizenship was proven.

Instructions to the raiders were that only alien radicals were to be arrested. And when the raids were completed, nearly every nationality on earth was represented. Greeks, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Letts [Latvians], Hungarians, Germans, Irish, Russians, Poles, South Slavs [Croats, Slovenes, and Serbs], Italians, even a Chinaman on the western coast were among the several thousand “foreigners” held for deportation. A total of 124, including 14 women, were crowded upon Deer Island, Boston Harbor. Five hundred and fifteen, including 32 women, some with children, were “shipped” to Ellis Island, New York. Mothers with babies were among those sent to Ellis Island. In one instance a woman, who had given birth to a child ten days before the raids, was forced out of bed to share the privations of the deportees.

Facilities at both Deer Island and Ellis Island were entirely inadequate to take care of the hundreds of deportees housed there. At Deer Island two deportees went insane and one committed suicide because of the persecution. At Ellis Island eight deportees died and most of them suffered severe colds, due to bad ventilation and other causes.

All deportees which belonged to the Communist Labor Party have been released from both Ellis Island and Deer Island upon bail. To secure ample bail in New York City was a large undertaking and we have the New York members of the party to thank for their unceasing labors in this respect. From last reports there are still about ten deportees, members of the Communist Labor Party, imprisoned in Philadelphia, and several in Denver.

In Oregon Victor Saulit and others were arrested. In California the cases against the state officials of the Communist Labor Party were dismissed in lower court, but the comrades were immediately rearrested upon indictments returned by the Alameda grand jury. Those indicted are: James H. Dolsen, State Secretary; J.E. Snyder, editor of The World; Cyrus Tobey, organizer; Edric Smith and J.C. Taylor, of the State Executive Committee; Reed, party worker in Oakland; Allanson Sessions and Max Bedacht. All are released upon bail. These comrades are charged with violating the state syndicalist law. Their defense is well taken care of.

In Duluth Jack Carney was arrested for “discouraging enlistment in the US Army.” He is out on bonds. In Kansas City, Mo., the federal authorities accused J.P. Cannon, State Secretary, and Charles Baker, national organizer, with violating the Lever Act. They are supposed to have encouraged the miners in their strike. Baker was arrested in Ohio and has been released upon bonds. From latest reports we understand
that Cannon is still held in the Kansas City, Mo., prison. Ample bail for his release was offered by Kan-
sas Comrades, but only Missouri property will be ac-
cepted by the Court. Comrades owning property in
Missouri should get busy.

Party members arrested in New Jersey, charged
with violation of state law, are all out on bonds and
the date of trial has been set several times and again
postponed. In New York, Benjamin Gitlow was found
guilty of violating a law passed right after McKinley
was assassinated in this state. His case will be appealed.

At Chicago all the state and local officials of the
party, as well as the national officials, were indicted
for alleged violation of the state sedition law. Mem-
bers of the party named in the indictment, as reported
by the press, follow: National Executive Committee:
L.E. Katterfeld, Alexander Bilan, Max Bedacht, Ed-
ward Lindgren, Edgar Owens. Cook County Execu-
tive Committee: Samuel Hankin, Edwin Firth, John
Vogel, Arthur Procter, Jacob Schriff, Niel S. Kjar, M.A.
Stolar, Charles Krumbein. Branch Secretaries: Robert
Norburg, R.W. Horseley, Charles Katz. Organization
and Propaganda Committee, Chicago: Albert Schus-
National Executive Secretary A. Wagenknecht. Active
organizers and agitators: John Reed, William Bross
Lloyd, Charles Baker. Women comrades indicted:
Marguerite Prevey, Helen Judd, Clara Rofsky.

This is by far the largest number of indictments
the party has had to deal with since the ruling class
decided to “safeguard” the constitution and yet the
Illinois organization has met the situation head-on.
Comrades were released on bail as fast as they appeared
in answer to their indictment and the defense work is
going forward in a most efficient manner.

It will be seen from this report that the party has
ably met the situation which confronted it subsequent
to the raids. The various subdivisions of the organization
have shown remarkable strength and courage and
have discharged their duties to the indicted members
and the deportees with speed and understanding.
When it is taken into account that almost all of those
who held for deportation have been freed on bail; when
it is understood that in every case the defense is being
attended to in a manner which merits praise, then the
membership as a whole may well realize that the orga-
nization as such is more powerful today than before
January 3rd.

Close attention will now be given to education
and organization work. Members will be pleased to
learn that preliminary tasks are well under way to place
into the hands of all subdivisions and members the
literature which will enlighten the workers, which will
pint out to them the many commissions of crime, vio-
lence, and terrorism by the ruling class and which will
 teach them that only all power in the hands of the
workers will put a stop to the White Terror.

One thing is assured. We shall not be intimi-
dated. The purpose of the raids was to cow the work-
ers. The Red Raids will have the opposite effect. Al-
ready the lackeys of capitalism sense that they have
overplayed their hand. Already they are forced to back
up.

We will stand our ground. We will advance. We
will emerge victorious.