

FORWARD TO THE LENIN RECRUITING DRIVE!

By F. BROWN.

THE class struggle is taking on gigantic proportions as manifested in the development of daily struggles of the working class which in many cases are independent of our organizational influence. Our Party has not yet succeeded in taking over leadership of the many struggles that extend all over the country, not only in industry, but also in the farming territory. The reason was given in the CI Resolution of October, which said:

"The present weakness of the Party is to be found in the fact that the Party was and remained a good propagandist organization, which has not understood how to mobilize the masses for struggle for their immediate demands and especially for their economic demands."

On this keynote, the last Plenum went thoroughly into consideration of concrete work, concrete slogans for taking leadership of the daily struggles, for reaching immediate aims; in other words, the Plenum considered methods of making our Party not only a good propagandist organization, but the real organizer of the working class, the real recognized vanguard of the working class.

In the last year, certainly the influence of the Party has become stronger among the working class and in some instances, among the agrarian workers and poor farmers, as proven by the many successful demonstrations all over the country, by the results of the elections, etc. Nevertheless, we are only on the road to winning broad masses to our influence, precisely because the Party is not yet anchored in the industrial establishments of the country, the Party base is not yet transformed into one of shop nuclei.

Our slogan of the last convention and of the March Plenum, "Into the Shops," was not concretized with the necessary Bolshevik energy. The organizational strength of the Party is still far behind the requirements of the tremendous daily tasks.

The immediate principal program of our Party is to strengthen itself politically and organizationally, not only in regard to the actual necessity of leading the daily struggles, but also in the future perspective of the biggest class struggles of tomorrow.

Last year one of our principal slogans, besides "Into the Shops," was "Forward to a Mass Party." And the recruiting drive that brought into our ranks 6,000 new workers was carried on with enthusiasm. Notwithstanding this enthusiasm and due to a series of shortcomings during and after the drive, especially in regard to keeping new members, only 30 per cent or 40 per cent of these new members remained in the Party ranks. From that time until now, of course the Party went forward and in the light of self-criticism all our mistakes and shortcomings were discovered. In the daily recruitment of new Party members here and there some districts show that they have really taken into consideration the experiences of the last recruiting drive. Today in general the Party Active have gained a series of experiences on how to improve the Party structure, how to bring new members into our ranks and how to keep and develop them.

Today our task is not only the concretization of all tasks elaborated by the last Plenum, but on the line of the Plenum, on the line of strengthening the Party politically and organiza-

tionally, of building it into a mass Party, a step forward must be made. This step is dictated by the objective situation, by the development of the class struggle.

On this basis, simultaneous with the improvement of the Party structure, with a more energetic concentration of our activity towards the factories, with the intensification of our work, a new recruiting drive is necessary. It is necessary that the doors of the Party shall be open to the most conscious elements of the working class, to all workers who follow the Party and support it in its struggles, to all workers who are ready to fight as militants within the Party ranks.

But in order that the Lenin Drive, which begins on Jan 21 to last till May 1st, shall be successful, and to avoid a repetition of the shortcomings which occurred in the drive of last year, it is absolutely necessary to evaluate carefully all the previous experiences that were analyzed in the "Resolution on Keeping New Members" of the March-April 1930 Plenum and the 7th Convention, as also in a series of articles appearing in the "Party Organizer" and "The Daily Worker."

In the light of all our experiences in the recruiting of new members, in the light of the last Plenum, the tasks of the new drive must be elaborated; the Drive Plan shall be worked out by every district in a concrete manner; assigning specific tasks to the shop nuclei, to the street units, Communist fractions inside the mass organizations, etc.

How Shall the Drive Be Conducted?

First it is necessary that our activities in the drive shall be concentrated in the shops and in the mass organizations on the basis of class struggle. Concrete tasks shall be assigned to the shop nuclei, to the street units, to the fractions inside the mass organizations, after a serious examination of the sphere of action of these basic organizations.

The nuclei in their approach to their fellow workers shall not endeavor to embrace the whole factory, but approach single workers who are near to our movement, who are known as fighters, as sympathizers of our Party, and who are known as having voted for our Party.

The street units shall concentrate their energy on the shop assigned to them, approaching workers with whom they have already established connections and other workers who are known to our connections. Sympathizers shall be approached in the shops and if this is impossible because of the reactionary situation these sympathizers shall be approached outside the factories—in their homes, or by inviting them to the homes of comrades.

The Communist fraction inside the unions, mass organizations and fraternal organizations, where our comrades know all the membership, shall declare before their fellow workers the importance of strengthening the Party, making clear to them that it is not enough that many of the members of these organizations claim to be for the Party, to be Communists, but that their duty is to be inside our ranks.

Those Party members who have dropped out not because of political differences, but because they were tired of the factional struggle, and who still follow the line of the Party and in many cases follow with discipline all instructions of the Party, shall also be approached and drawn back inside the Party.

(To Be Continued.)