

NEWS OF DISTRICT 8

By ARNE SWABECK, Dist. Organizer.

Subscription cards with the necessary explanation for the present big Voice of Labor circulation drive have now gone to all branches within the district. The way in which it is being received indicates a live campaign with good results. All party members seem to be in favor of building up a real district organ with which they can bring the message of our party to the American workers. We are anxious to see what branch will bring in the best results. It is, of course, very important that all our members in the language federations to the fullest extent realize the necessity of using all their energy to strengthen the English section of the party, and that one of the best means to do this is to build up the press. The time for the campaign is short, as soon as that is terminated we must start out on new work. Remember such activities is what puts our party in functioning shape. All members should hurry to fill in their cards and forward them to the Voice of Labor.

It is just as important that all members inform the party press of conditions prevailing in their particular industries and shops. Perhaps we cannot all write articles, but we can all jot down a few facts to illustrate conditions and send it in. Our party press should be made the spokesman of all grievances of the workers so we may be able to bring it to the attention of so many as possible and make the struggle for better conditions effective. Especially should all such news reach the English press. ~~Swab~~ once stated that no party could be really effective unless it organized shop and factory councils. We have no such councils in America, but in making reports of conditions in the press and getting the other workers interested we may lay the beginning of a basis for the councils.

The highest possible concentration and co-ordination of all party activities is the best assurance of success, and it will also give our members an effective training. From now on till May 2, the district membership will concentrate its whole energy on the Voice of Labor circulation drive. During the month of May a like campaign will be started for the circulation of the Labor Herald to gather new subscribers and also to completely line up all our members as active participants of the Trade Union Educational League. The necessary

material will be furnished all branches as well as information relative to the general league groups and the various industrial groups so that all members who belong to a union may be connected up. It will, of course, be up to every branch themselves, language branches as well as English, to make sure that each member does his duty. It should be remembered that the Trade Union Educational League is a rapidly growing organization, a crystallization of a definite movement in which we must be on the alert if we are to play any part. And to make our party a party of action it must have its roots in the mass labor movement. Let us therefore make the month of May a real drive to build the basis of our industrial activities.

During the month of June we will likewise concentrate our whole energy on the promotion of the labor party issue. Have special leaflets, setting forth the necessity of a labor party reach all organized workers, and the pamphlet "For a Labor Party" brought to the attention of the trade unions and distributed as widely as possible. In this manner we will follow up the work begun by the Trade Union Educational League for the crystallization of the sentiment for a labor party. Detailed plans as to this campaign will follow, and further announcements of new campaigns made.

The greatest need at present appears to be the building and strengthening of the basic units of our party—the branches. This can be done only by all members becoming active and mainly by arranging matters so that all members want to become active. The branches should keep a close record of and make every member give an account of their activities. We must always strive to build from below and lay a solid foundation. Quarterly report blanks for this purpose will be sent to all branches. These blanks contains a number of definite questions to be answered by each member as regards their activities. When all members have been recorded, the branch can take action wherever any laxity appears. This should not be understood simply as a means of compulsion, for our members no compulsion should be necessary, but rather as a means of stimulating the desire of each member to do some active work. The various functions in all units should be distributed as widely as possible so as to give each member a certain responsibility and definite interest in the work. Detailed information on these report blanks will follow.

Y. W. L. Activities

Maplewood Branch News.

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