

THE COMMUNIST YOUTH

A Conference of the Young Communist International

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In the middle of March the session of the International Bureau of the Young Communist International will be held in Moscow. About eight months have elapsed since the Second Congress of the Young Communist International. During this time considerable experience has been gathered with regard to the fulfilment of the tasks set forth by the Congress. In this period there has taken place within the Youth movement a mighty transforming and developing process. This and the important decisions which may be justly expected from the session of the enlarged Executive of the Communist International induced the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International to call this session.

Their agenda will be extremely extensive. The question is how best to profit from the experiences gathered up to now in the two principal spheres of activity of the youth organizations: the economic struggle and Communist educational work, to correct mistakes made up to now, to examine the gains made hitherto and thus to make a basis for still more intensive activity. In this manner the discussion of these two items on the agenda form naturally the centre point of the sitting.

The work done up to now with regard to these two objects showed that the process of transformation in the unions could only be achieved by exertion of all our efforts. This was partly due to the fact that the importance of this work had not been fully realized by all the young comrades. On the other hand our small number of experienced functionaries had to enter the "Party" and new ones could not be trained speedily enough.

In addition to this we must realize that the comparative ebb of the revolutionary situation, the constantly increasing economic crisis by which the working youth is particularly hard hit, has produced a practically paralyzing apathy in their ranks. This is evidenced by the fact that today they succumb much more easily to the divertive influences of capitalism, and are no longer so eagerly taking part in the activity of the revolutionary organizations as they did at the end of the war. From this fact there arise two problems which must be faced by the Conference:—

A thorough discussion of our working methods among the young proletarians and the measures to be adopted in order to defend the working youth against their growing economic misery. There is of course no telling how far we will succeed. The earnest work of the last months in those directions justifies our hoping for the best results.

In addition to this work the Conference will also deal with the work in the proletarian athletic clubs, with a thorough and complete organization of the unions, with the development of the press and the antimilitarism campaign.

It is evident that the problem of the reactionary youth organizations, the religious and other organizations of the proletarian youth, will be thoroughly discussed. Up to now the former still contain hundreds of thousands of young proletarians, who under no conditions can be suffered to remain with them any longer. For this work too the Conference will create a definite basis. With regard to the other organizations of the proletarian youth, the Conference will have to deal with the negotiations aiming at unification which have lately taken place between the social patriotic and centrist Youth Internationals.

The reports on the political situation and the situation within the Comintern and the working-class as well as the report on the activity of the E. C. will serve as a basis for the discussion of all the items of the agenda outlined here.

A series of lectures actual political and economic questions held by leading comrades of the Comintern will at the same time supply all those who take part in the Conference with valuable material for their further work in the unions. Furthermore several lectures will be held upon dialectic materialism.

On the whole the Conference is thus characterized by the gigantic amount of work to be performed by the members of the International Bureau. For the whole of the Communist movement, the accomplishment of these tasks will mean a mighty advance, will mean that the young guard of the working-class has recognized its duties and tasks in the arena of the whole movement and is ready to do them.