

GRATIS

Report

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Work

of the

Central Committee

from the

13th to 14th

National Congress

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13th Congress Decisions

The 13th National Congress of the Australian Communist Party, held on March 19, 20 and 21, 1943, took place during a momentous period in the People's War against Fascism.

The Red Army had smashed the Nazi hordes at Orel and begun its great 400 miles winter advance; the U.S.A. and the British forces had begun the offensive that was to clear Rommel from North Africa, while the victory of the Bismarck Sea, although not removing the threat of invasion of Australia, had dealt a severe blow to the plans of the Japanese.

These victories were heartening, but the war situation was still extremely critical and it was natural that the main attention of the 13th Congress was devoted to the tasks of the Party in hastening victory.

Both in discussion and in the resolution adopted by Congress emphasis was laid on the need to strengthen Australia's war effort and increase our contribution to the world struggle against fascism. Congress declared: "The defence of Australian independence, which is bound up with the defeat of Hitler in Europe, demands a maximum war effort, additional support from our Allies and military offensives to deprive the Japanese of bases from which they are preparing to invade this country.

"Until the United Nations have defeated Hitler in Europe, which will enable them to prepare an all-out Pacific offensive to defeat Japan, the task of Australia is to hold on. For this the maximum war effort is required, together with military offensives to deprive the Japanese of bases from which they are preparing to invade Australia."

The realisation that the opening of the Second Front in Europe would be a guarantee of speedy victory over Nazi Germany was expressed in the resolution:

"What is required now is that Britain and the United States open a second front in Europe and join with the Soviet people in a final all-out effort to put an end to the Hitlerite power.

"Congress calls upon the people of Australia to demand a Second European Front and to put an end, once and for all, to the influence of the pro-fascist elements which here in Australia, as well as in Britain and the United States, are sabotaging the war and trying to save Hitler's armies by opposing the opening of a Second European Front."

Emphasis was laid on the necessity of strengthening the struggle against Japanese fascism not only by allied military operations but also by a fundamental change in British policy in India, thus enabling the great mass of Indian people to participate in the anti-Japanese war, and by giving more aid to the Chinese people in their heroic struggle.

"In the war with Japan two steps are necessary which, if taken, will immediately relieve the situation in the Pacific and contribute enormously to the final victory over Fascism.

"Firstly India must be won for the cause of the United Nations. This demands the release of the Indian Congress leaders, and the re-opening of negotiations for the establishment of an Indian Government that will unite the Indian people for war against the Axis powers. Artificially created religious and political divisions must no longer be used to bar the way to Indian liberation.

"Secondly, the utmost assistance must be rendered the heroic Chinese people who have been waging war on the Japanese bandits for more than five years. China, which provides bases close to Japan, is a key to victory in the Pacific. Therefore, the re-occupation of Burma and the reopening of the Burma Road must be undertaken by the Allies."

Calling for the greatest effort on the home front by workers, farmers and the middle classes, Congress directed the sharpest criticism at reactionary employers and politicians such as Menzies and Fadden, who hamper the Government in its efforts to prosecute the war, and at the Langites and Trotskyites who aid fascism by their promoting of national and labor disunity, when national and labor unity is so vital.

In the struggle to achieve greater production for the war effort, to combat absenteeism and prevent unnecessary stoppages, and to isolate those reactionary elements who gave their main attention to opposing the Government and the war effort, Congress called for the establishment of a working class united front and also for national unity of all anti-fascist people around the Curtin Government. As a step in this direction Congress directed the C.C. to pursue united front proposals made by the State Labor Party (N.S.W.) with the object of reaching full agreement with that body.

Congress also gave attention to the post-war perspectives, emphasising the need for greater post-war powers for the Federal Government, a plan for rehabilitation of the services, and jobs, homes and security for all after victory is achieved.

Congress declared that further advance depended on the rapid growth of the Party and improvement in all phases of organisation and activity.

Finally, and in order to ensure that the Communist Party could play its full role in the fight for victory, Congress demanded the restoration of publication rights for the "Tribune" and other Party papers, and the return of Party property seized by the Menzies anti-Labor Government.

Campaign For 2nd Front

These were the tasks and responsibilities placed before the Central Committee elected by the 13th Congress. In its activity since the 13th Congress, the Central Committee has consistently applied the Congress Resolution and decisions.

The campaign for the 2nd Front was carried out energetically and persistently in all States. The Central and State newspapers and Communist Review gave wide publicity to the urgent need for the opening of a Second Front. The demand was raised by great mass rallies in capital cities, by meetings in suburban and country centres and at workshops, while a large number of leaflets and posters were issued. This widespread support was demonstrated by the considerable number of resolutions adopted by Trade Unions and other mass organisations throughout the country, including the N.S.W. and other Labor Councils, and a special cable carried the signatures of 42 trade union leaders.

The correctness of our policy in relation to the opening of the Second Front in contradistinction to those who spoke of "insuperable difficulties" and "millions of casualties" was proven by the comparative ease with which the Allies breached the "impregnable" Western Wall and landed in Normandy. History has amply borne out our contention that a two front war meant the speedy end of Hitlerite Germany. Had the Second Front coincided with the smashing Nazi defeats outside Moscow, or the great victory of the Red Army at Stalingrad, and then later with the Red Army advance of a thousand miles to the German border, there is no doubt that the Nazis would have been crushed earlier and forces, released from European commitments, would have more quickly overwhelmed Japan. The presence of powerful units

of the British Fleet in the Pacific, released by European successes, is an example of what could have been achieved earlier.

With the opening of the Second Front the Central Committee in a special message stated . . . "The great armies of Britain and America, now landed in Western Europe, will join the heroic Red Army in delivering final annihilating blows against Nazi Germany. The drives from east and west will be supplemented by the gallant armies of Marshal Tito and General Alexander, the resistance movement of France, the partisans and guerillas, the peoples of a whole continent rising in unison to defeat the Fascist enslaver."

Realising the new responsibilities placed before the Party by the change in the situation, the Central Committee called ". . . upon every member and supporter, every worker, everyone who cherished democracy and freedom, to redouble his efforts in backing up the blows from East, West and South, directed against Hitlerite Germany."

The same message emphasised the important relation of the Second Front to the Pacific War.

"For Australia, the opening of the Second Front raises the happy prospect of early victory in the Pacific and the return of our 17,000 Diggers now in Japanese prison camps."

The sweeping American successes in the Philippines, on Iwo Jima, and the Ryuku Islands; the air raids on the Japanese industries, the successes of our Australian divisions, RAAF and RAN in the drive against the powerful Japanese forces in New Britain, Northern New Guinea, Bougainville and Borneo, and the British advance in Burma, are stepping stones to "early Pacific victory."

Campaign For Teheran-Crimea Decisions

In addition to campaigning for the 2nd Front, the C.C. placed in the forefront of Allied victory needs the necessity of a meeting between the leaders of Britain, U.S.A. and the Soviet Union, featuring this in the Tribune of September 2nd, 1943.

In November, 1943, following the Moscow Conference between the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., the Central Committee in a special statement, said: "The Communists have been leading the demand for a Conference to establish that essential better understanding with the U.S.S.R. and, at the same time, exposing the provocations of the reactionaries. The Communists fully understood the possibility and importance of inter-allied agreement, and its vital significance for the speedy ending of the war and for a just and lasting peace."

On December 9th the Tribune carried a statement from the Central Committee on the historic Teheran Conference of the "Big Three," emphasising that "the agreement expresses the bonds of allied unity already cemented by the common struggles and sacrifices of the anti-Hitler coalition — the smashing defeats administered to the German armies on the Eastern Front, the achievements of the American forces on land, sea and air, and the proud record of our own A.I.F. divisions in the Middle East." The statement also called for utmost unity for the realisation of the Teheran agreement and for a still greater effort for speedy victory. In Central Committee statements, circulars, reports to C.C. meetings, through the weekly press and Communist Review, in all agitation and propaganda activities, the C.C., with the co-operation of the Party organisations and members, gave the widest publicity to the Teheran decisions and the need for wholehearted support by the Australian people.

The Dumbarton Oaks Security Conference was a further step towards winning the war and guaranteeing post-war peace and security. In his report to a Plenum of the Central Committee held early in September,

1944, Cde. L. L. Sharkey stated that: "to popularise Teheran and the Dumbarton Oaks International Agreement . . . is among the Communist Party's most urgent tasks."

The response from the Party organisations and members was very good. In all work the spirit of Teheran was reflected and became a corner-stone around which Party activity revolved.

The conclusion of the Yalta agreement further cemented allied unity and enlarged on the perspectives envisaged by Teheran.

In February, 1945, a Plenum of the Central Committee laid particular emphasis on the popularisation of the Crimean decisions, establishment of a basic world security organisation, insistence on the need for reparations, punishment of *all* war criminals (and not merely a selected few) and the observance of the full provisions of the Atlantic Charter, particularly in relation to the colonial peoples.

Death Of Fascism

The Central Committee repeatedly emphasised the enormous significance of the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of the European peoples, not only from the fascist occupationists but also from the domination of Quisling rulers. Before the war fascism ruled by terror and violence in Germany, Italy, Austria, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, Greece, Yugo-slavia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Spain and Portugal, whilst Turkey was ruled by a military dictatorship. In the so-called "democratic" countries of the European continent — France, Norway, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland and Sweden — reaction was immensely powerful.

Today the position is fundamentally different. Fascist dictatorships have been and are being rapidly destroyed. The fascist enemies of the people are being tried as war criminals. The Baltic States, Western White Russia and the Ukraine have re-joined the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, while in the liberated countries new democratic governments, based upon the People's Resistance Movements, in which the Communist Parties played a leading part, are coming into existence. In these governments members of the Communist Party hold leading positions.

The Central Committee initiated a number of activities to win the support of the Australian people for the democratic movements in Europe. In this connection, particular attention was given to exposing the Yugo-slav traitor, Mikhailovich, the Polish fascist emigre Government, and the attempts to restore the collaborationists to power in Italy and France. An energetic national campaign was conducted against the use of British armed forces to crush the democratic Greek people's movement, E.A.M.

The democratic trend resulting from the People's War has not been confined to the European countries; it has found expression throughout the world. In the U.S.A., the defeat of Dewey was a resounding blow to the Isolationists and anti-Soviet elements, while the active participation of the Negro population in the armed services and in industry has done much to undermine Jim Crowism and build unity between the white and coloured American masses. Support for the Communist Party of Great Britain by the British people has grown considerably. In China, despite the blockade by the Kuo-min-tang armies, the Chinese 8th and 4th Armies continue to grow and to gain significant success against the Japanese enemy. The 800,000-strong Chinese Communist Party enjoys the support of decisive sections of the Chinese people. Our brother Indian Party has won a leading position in the mass workers' and peasants' movement, and has achieved considerable success in organising the Indian people to combat the disastrous famine and more actively participate in the anti-Japanese war. In the Pacific countries occupied by the Japanese the Communists organise and lead the people's resistance movements, which, particularly in the Philippines, have been of

incalculable value to the Allied cause. Finally, we must draw attention to the heroism and devotion to the anti-fascist cause displayed by the natives of New Guinea, New Britain, Papua and the Solomons, besides the Australian Aborigines, who have actively participated in the People's War.

Assistance To Colonial Peoples

While campaigning for the full application of the terms of the Atlantic Charter to the colonial peoples, the Central Committee took steps to have assistance given to colonial peoples resident in Australia. Considerable success was achieved by the Seamen's Union, in gaining wage increases and improved conditions for Chinese, Indian and Javanese seamen. In October, 1943, J. B. Miles, on behalf of the C.C., cabled to P. C. Joshi, General Secretary, C.P. of India, pledging more intense efforts to rally support for the cause of the Indian people. A number of union resolutions demanded that the Australian Government take steps to help alleviate the effects of the Indian famine.

Success was achieved also in having assistance rendered to Indonesian political prisoners who had been evacuated to Australia from Dutch concentration camps in the New Guinea jungles. Originally detained in a prisoner-of-war camp, these Indonesian democrats are now usefully employed and conditions have been considerably improved. Australian democracy must ensure that after the war these erstwhile political prisoners are allowed to return to their homeland as free men and women.

Since the 13th Congress, besides material on the problems of the colonial peoples in the weekly Party press, comprehensive articles have appeared in the Communist Review and several pamphlets have been published. In order to ensure more specialised attention to the problem of colonial peoples, the Central Committee recently established a Colonial Committee, which already has carried out a good deal of research, preparation of material and other useful activities.

The Campaign Of Reaction

In spite of some evidences of blundering, weakness and vacillation, the Curtin Government has done well in mobilising Australian resources, industrial and manpower, for decisive struggle against the enemy and as shown in its banking and repatriation bills, war gratuity, and similar measures, has given real consideration to the problems that will face the people in the post-war years.

The abandonment by the A.L.P. of its "isolationist" policy was followed, at a Federal Conference in 1943, by a decisive turn toward Australia participating in world affairs, and was further expressed in the Australian-New Zealand agreement.

At the same time, the Curtin administration has had to withstand the continual provocative attacks of the Opposition, which shows more interest in defeating Labor than in defeating the fascist enemy.

This was shown particularly in the Referendum campaign when the main section of monopoly capital, its press, radio and other propaganda mediums were thrown in to a campaign to mislead and confuse the Australian people on the proposals of the Federal Government. The enormous publicity barrage, which unquestionably cost big business a considerable sum, was successful. A majority of Australians were induced to vote "NO," the outstanding exception being the Services, who returned a "Yes" majority. The reactionary campaign was assisted by rightwingers in the labor movement and on its fringe, the Langs, Fallons, and Trotskyites, who fought energetically among the workers for the defeat of the Government proposals.

In analysing the defeat of the Referendum proposals the Central Committee stated: "The U.A.P.-Country Party reactionaries, operating under various labels, used inevitable wartime discomforts to frighten people with industrial conscription and regimentation," and called for a decisive reply from the labor movement to "unite their ranks and win the victory and the peace desired by every decent citizen."

Since the 13th Congress, as the war receded from Australia, sections of monopoly capitalism in Australia began to direct their main fire against the Labor Government and the labor movement. Never at any previous period has the reactionary offensive been so well organised, co-ordinated, sustained and vicious.

The extent to which reaction is prepared to go to defeat the Government is expressed not only in Parliamentary speeches, but in the mobilisation of all organisations under their control, as well as their biased use of the press and radio. They even endanger the safety of Australia by advising depositors to begin a "run on the banks" with scare propaganda to the effect that the Government Banking Bill endangered the small depositor's holdings, and attempting to undermine morale, by asserting that the campaigns of the Australian military forces in New Britain, Northern New Guinea and the Solomons were unnecessary and that the forces were inadequately equipped.

The reactionary campaign of big business is led by the "Brisbane Line" defeatists, Menzies and Fadden, with the active co-operation of ex-New Guardsman Harrison, Sir Frederick Stewart and others of the discredited U.A.P. leadership. In the various States the campaign is supported by such as Dunstan, Weaver, Playford, etc.

Whilst these people conduct the offensive against the Government, the Unions and the Communist Party, in Parliament, through the daily press and at public meetings, they do not confine themselves to these avenues. A series of existing and new "smear" organisations have been swung into the campaign. These include the Constitutional League, Sane Democracy League, Institute of Public Affairs, Free Enterprise Co-ordinating Council, People's Democratic Union, Airways Secretariat, Political Research Association, and similar bodies in all States. Provided with unlimited funds these bodies, through newspaper advertisements, over the radio, by leaflets, posters and circulars, maintain the anti-Government and red-baiting barrage.

The Langite, Trotskyite and A.L.P. Right-wing disruptors have lent support, indulging in the most unscrupulous slanders and lies, particularly against the Communist Party. Fallon, in a special interview given to Sydney "Truth," repeated the anti-Communist slanders of the Nazi, Jan Valtin (Eugene Krebs); Dougherty, also of the A.W.U. Bureaucracy, invented a mythical brawl between C.P. members and other workers on the Townsville aerodrome, an occurrence emphatically denied by Union leaders and other responsible Townsville citizens; Lovegrove, Trotskyite President of the Victorian A.L.P., conducted a vehement defence of the Polish fascists and their discredited emigre government.

Lang's "Century" contains little else but anti-Government and anti-Communist diatribes and Big Business advertisements, while his book "Communism in Australia" was hailed with joy by the reaction, given fulsome praise in its press, and provided the basic outline and material for the "Sydney Morning Herald" special full-page article of January 19th, 1945. In this period those in control of the W.E.A. in N.S.W. endeavoured with some success to turn that body into an organ for the dissemination of anti-Soviet propaganda.

Catholic Action has been most active, particularly in the organisation of disruption within the labor movement. Per medium of extensive radio activity, material in "Freedom," Catholic Action paper published in Victoria, and by innumerable leaflets (mainly anonymous), "The Workers' Rights Association" and Dr. Ryan, through the Catholic press and pamphlets, have been the spearhead of Catholic Action, anti-working class activity.

Decisively repudiated by the people in the Federal elections, big business proceeded to change the Party labels and to present a "Liberal" face to the masses of middle class voters. This was expressed clearly by the "Sydney Morning Herald" following the Federal Election defeat, when it stated: "The U.A.P. and Country Party labels are no longer an asset to political aspirants, but a liability."

This process of dressing the wolf in sheep's clothing has been completed with the bringing together of the majority of the reactionary Parties and groups into one organisation, the "Liberal" Party. In conjunction with its vicious offensive against the labor movement and Labor Government, the "Liberal" Party is conducting a great campaign to convince the middle classes that it is their champion and that only the preservation of private enterprise — for them, another term for monopolist domination — will solve their problems in the post-war period.

This specious propaganda must not be underestimated. It does appeal to sections of the middle class who are confronted by difficulties created by the needs of war and who are susceptible to propaganda implying that their problems are created by the Government and not by circumstances brought about by the demands of the war.

The Campaign Against Reaction

Since the 13th Congress the Central Committee and the Party organisations have conducted a consistent exposure of the authors and nature of the campaign of the reaction, and have achieved considerable success in developing a widespread counter-offensive in opposition to the attacks of big business against Australian democratic progress. The campaign of the "Liberal" and Country Party leaders has been effectively dealt with in the Central and State Party press, through public meetings, distribution of State leaflets and widespread national distribution of leaflets such as "Why They Lie about the Communist Party," and of pamphlets such as "Australia's Guilty Men" by Len Fox; "We Must go Forward" by R. Dixon; "The Story of Government Enterprise in Australia," by L. Sharkey and E. W. Campbell; "Facts About Banking Reform," by E. W. Campbell; "Australia Marches On," by L. Sharkey; "How Russia Smashed Its Fifth Column," by L. H. Gould and W. A. Wood; "Speeches of Fred Paterson in Parliament"; the Party Programme, and Programme series on Housing, Services, Women and Farming, and "Why You Should Join the Communist Party," by L. Donald.

The effectiveness of the Sane Democracy League exposure in the Tribune of July 20th, 1944, and the subsequent questions asked in Parliament by D. Mountjoy, member for Swan (W.A.) has been amply demonstrated.

The Central Committee promptly answered the slanders of the disruptionists in the labor movement. "The Story of J. T. Lang" by R. Dixon, achieved a wide circulation, whilst the lies contained in Lang's "Communism in Australia" were effectively dealt with by Cde. L. Sharkey in a series of "Tribune" articles.

The attacks of the Fallon-Dougherty A.W.U. bureaucracy were answered, not only by the Party in national leaflets such as "Why Mr. Fallon goes Witch Hunting," but also by a number of trade union papers, job meetings and resolutions, all of which condemned their anti-Union, disruptive role.

The campaign initiated by the former State Labor Party of N.S.W. and the A.C.P. against the anti-Soviet activities of the W.E.A. in N.S.W., a highlight of which was publication of Cde. L. Sharkey's "W.E.A. Exposed," was taken up by the N.S.W. and Newcastle Trades and Labor Councils and resulted in the withdrawal of Trade Union support from that body.

In addition, the campaign of Catholic Action has met with a series of reverses. The phoney appeals contained in the Workers' Rights Association broadcasts and "Freedom" directed to "Australian Unionism" were repudiated by the trade union organisations and members. The scurrilous arguments of their chief spokesman, Dr. Ryan, were devastatingly answered by Cde. L. Sharkey's "Reply to Father Ryan," one of the Party's best selling pamphlets, and in his subsequent articles on Dr. Ryan in the Tribune, State Press and Communist Review.

One of the most significant victories over reaction in this period was the historic debate between Cde L. Sharkey and W. C. Wentworth. Following the breakdown of the "Telegraph"-Wentworth plan to disrupt a second front meeting in the Sydney Town Hall, the Party challenged Wentworth to debate the issue of an Allied 2nd Front in Europe. The debate, held before a crowded Town Hall audience and adjudicated by an impartial chairman, resulted in the complete and utter rout of Mr. Wentworth and his relegation to a minor role in the campaign forces of reaction. This was not just a debate, it was a real test of Party policy as against that of reaction, and Party policy triumphed.

Though a number of successes have been achieved by the Party and the labor movement in combatting the activities of reaction, nevertheless their campaign is still powerful and well organised and must be given real and consistent attention by all Party organisations. A Plenum of the C.C. held in February of this year decided that yet more attention must be given to answering the slanders directed against the Party, and to stating our position more clearly on questions of democracy, the use of violence, our policy in relation to the achievement of socialism, etc. At the same time sharp attention was drawn to the partial successes being achieved by the "Liberal" Party in gaining support from sections of the middle classes and the need for the Party and the labor movement to do much more to win these sections for unity with the working class behind the war and post-war plans of the Federal Government. As a step toward realising this aim the C.C. has established a special committee to deal with problems of the middle classes. Already programs dealing with the needs of each middle class section have been issued or are in course of preparation. In addition a special drive is under way to sell 100,000 copies of "The Story of Government Enterprise in Australia" as an effective counter to the anti-nationalisation campaign of monopoly capitalism.

The Home Front

The fight for production and transport of the necessary war materials was no easy task, the Party being forced to struggle not only against irresponsibility shown by some sections of workers, and against Langite and Trotskyite disruption and sabotage, but also against pin-pricking and provocation by some employers and against Government weaknesses and mistakes.

Nevertheless the Central Committee set out to give effect to the 13th Congress decisions:—"Struggle for conditions of labor making for the highest level of production of war supplies and other needs for a maximum war effort; for the removal of hindrances and for the formation of joint production committees and other forms of organisation which will facilitate increased production.

"A firm stand for disciplined adjustment of grievances, for an end to unauthorised strikes and stoppages and avoidable absenteeism, exposure of employer provocation and drastic action by the Government against such employers and managers.

"Exposure of black marketing, decisive action by the Government to punish the criminals and root out this evil. For more effective action by the Government to control prices in the interests of consumers and small traders. Amendment to and relaxation of wage-pegging regulations to allow adjustments to lower income groups and correction of anomalies.

"An increase of the basic wage, which lags behind the rising cost of living. Adjustment of taxation on the basis of ability to pay and what is left after the tax is paid.

"Support of voluntary war services, the provision of amenities for our fighting forces, and improvements in the conditions of training, service and payment which are the responsibilities of the Government."

Circumstances made it necessary for main attention to be given to the coal industry and the waterfront. The struggle for coal has been a complicated and difficult one. On the one hand long standing prejudices held by many miners, and allowed to sidetrack attention from the essential need to produce coal for the war effort, combined with irresponsible actions by a few, contributed to hold ups. On the other hand mine owners and managers utilised the dire need for coal and the willingness of the majority of miners to do everything possible to obtain it, to undermine and worsen conditions and abolish existing rights and privileges. In addition the mining industry became the chief weapon of attack upon the Government by the reaction and its radio and press mouthpieces.

The Central Committee, whilst not excusing irresponsible stoppages, insisted that the main blame lay at the door of some owners and managers and consistently demanded that the Government not only take action against those provoking stoppages, but also act to deal with the miners' legitimate grievances and so create a solid basis for continuity of production. In a special statement issued in October, 1943, the Central Committee said:

"The campaign by many newspapers against the miners, and their efforts to provoke the Government to deal with the situation only by disciplinary action against the miners, will not solve the problem. . . . The Government must put the nation before private enterprise, the production of coal before profits, the well-being of the miners before the disruptive politics of those capitalists who think more about their class future than about speedy victory, and, as a Labor Government, put unionism and the spirit of the People's War into its handling of the situation."

In the same statement the Central Committee put forward a number of concrete measures to improve production, including direct responsibility of managers to the Government, a manpower survey to provide additional mine labor, also acceptance of advice on technical problems from practical miners through the Miners' Federation and not from people tied to the owners and companies. They suggested a campaign through the union movement for raising the morale of miners, and the establishment of Pit Production Committees responsible to the Coal Commission.

The failure of the Government to act on these proposals, and on proposals of a similar nature repeatedly brought before it by the Miners' Federation, has not helped to overcome the problem of producing coal, and in many ways has aided the anti-Government campaign of the mine owners, Federal Opposition and their press.

Again, on March 2nd, 1944, arising from the South Coast stoppage over the Coalcliff safety issue, the C.C. demanded Government control as the only solution. Although later the Government did take over Coalcliff, an experiment which, despite owner sabotage, has proved successful, no further steps have been taken to take control out of the hands of the mine owners who have

amply demonstrated that they are not prepared to co-operate in the production of coal for the nation's war effort.

Although the struggle of the Party for better discipline and greater production brought reverses in the 1943 Federation elections, the 1944 results which included the election of Henry Scanlon to the position of Northern Vice-President, the absolute majority for H. Wells, large vote for Idris Williams for General Secretary, and successes in several districts, demonstrate the extent to which the Party's policy for the mining industry is supported by the Australian miners.

Another important issue in the struggle for production was the introduction of the Gang System on the Sydney waterfront. In face of a combined Langite-Trotskyite scare campaign amongst the waterside workers, precipitating a general wharf strike, the Central Committee clearly stated the position of the Party in the Tribune of April 7th, 1943.

"The military are in charge of the Sydney wharves, and soldiers are working the ships.

"Why this sorry position in the midst of a People's War against Fascism?

"Because wholesale lies have been told to the wharf workers, the new system of working has been vilely misrepresented by a clique of Langsters, including some officials and former officials; Trotskyites and other saboteurs."

To improve the war effort and working conditions the Communists and other progressive members of the Waterside Workers' Federation fought, despite a vicious anti-Party campaign and opposition from misled and confused workers, for the operation of the gang system as a means of eliminating chaos, overcoming the pernicious "Bull" system whereby some got the pick of the work and many got either the worst jobs or none at all.

In the course of this "fight against the stream" the Communists lost office but regained and considerably improved their position in the 1944 elections after the Gang System had proved a complete success and Communist Policy had been thoroughly vindicated.

In the course of the struggle against unnecessary stoppages the Central Committee was forced to give careful consideration to having the just demands of workers met without them indulging in unnecessary or prolonged stoppages. In the dispute over the New Year holiday considerable disruption of production took place early in January 1943. Much the same situation arose over payment for the Anzac Day holiday in 1943. A repetition of the January prolonged hold-up was averted by the decision of Metal Trades Unions for the one-day stoppage on May 3rd, and a full and organised return to work on May 4th. This action, whilst involving a stoppage, saved many man-hours that would, with unorganised and irresponsible action, have been lost to the war effort.

In this period also the C.C. has given full support to actions, such as that taken by the Duly-Hansfords (Sydney) workers, to defeat attempts by the employers to destroy trade union organisation and activity. The Party sees these actions as essential to calling a halt to the campaign against unionism by certain employers who should be devoting all of their energy to defeating the common fascist enemy. Such actions are also a necessary step to ensure the protection of the rights of the fighting services after victory has been won.

In the course of the struggle of the locked-out Sydney newspaper employees a high level of unity between journalists and other newspaper workers was established and has been maintained. The Party was able to provide material assistance to the locked-out unionists by placing at their disposal printing and other facilities for the production of their own daily paper.

Whilst endorsing the general principles of the Government's anti-strike regulations the Central Committee demanded that real action be taken against employers who provoked industrial stoppages and that more effective steps be taken to deal with the just needs of the workers. In the latter con-

nection considerable success has been achieved in having effect given to the 90 per cent. women's rate and the application of the war loading to sections of workers not covered by it.

Summarising, it can be justly claimed by the A.C.P. that in difficult circumstances it has played a decisive part in maintaining and improving production for the war effort and in defending conditions against the attacks of unscrupulous employers.

Fighting Services

In relation to the Australian Armed Services the 13th Congress declared:

"All movements to care for the men of the armed forces and the women of the services, to provide them with comforts and amenities at the Front, at battle stations and on leave are deserving of the fullest support of the civilian population. The Labor movement has not yet exhausted the possibilities. Communists must be more vigorous in their support of these activities."

Over 4,000 Party members are in the armed forces, many having seen service in the Middle East, New Guinea, New Britain, the Solomons and Borneo. These members, who by their work and conduct in the armed services have upheld the best traditions of our Party, have regularly received hampers, literature and other amenities from the civilian Party membership.

We record with deep sorrow that many of our comrades have lost their lives in the course of the People's War.

Since the Congress, considerable attention has been paid by the C.C. to the questions affecting the services. In July, 1944, our program for service men and women—"A Plan for the Fighting Man" was published. It has a considerable circulation through the forces and among ex-service men, and has won widespread support.

The development of civilian-soldier, and particularly worker-soldier unity has been the constant concern of the Party and in unions, factories and localities we have given considerable support to raising comforts for the front line.

Our conception of worker-soldier unity extends to questions of rehabilitation and to conditions under which our troops live, work and fight. We have waged several campaigns around such questions, and supported many others undertaken by the union movement.

In this connection the campaign of the union movement for the Battle Bonus of 6/- per day was given the enthusiastic and unstinted support of our Party. More than 250,000 signatures were obtained, 50,000 of service men and women.

The rehabilitation problems of service men and women have become a major political question for the future, and here we have taken the initiative in the labor movement, popularising our policy, urging adoption of union rehabilitation policies and working for closer unity between ex-service bodies and the union movement.

Acting on the initiative of the Central Committee the Party organisations and members actively participated in the various loan campaigns conducted by the Federal Government and made a valuable contribution to their success. In addition the Party has actively supported various patriotic appeals, the establishment and maintenance of servicemen's huts, forwarding the press, books, periodicals, hampers, canteen orders, etc., to members and non-members in the services.

Working-class Unity

In order to improve the war effort and defeat the developing campaign of reaction the 13th Congress placed in the forefront the achievement of working class unity.

"A burning need of the moment is the united front of the working class, that is, unity in the cause of this war of liberation between the members of both Labor Parties, the great number of non-party workers, and the members of the Communist Party."

Prior to the Congress the State Labor Party of N.S.W. had decided to appoint delegates to discuss with representatives of the Communist Party our United Front proposals. In view of this fact, Congress, welcoming the decision of the State Labor Party, "decided to . . . direct the incoming Central Committee to immediately proceed with the discussions with the State Labor Party and to allow nothing to stand in the way of reaching a full understanding for common working class action against fascism."

The United Front agreement between both parties was finalised at the Easter (1943) Conference of the S.L.P., where a comprehensive scheme for joint activity between Executives, Branches and members of both Parties was agreed upon. In preparation for the Federal Elections, it was decided to extend joint support for candidates agreed upon by both Parties. Arising from the success of the co-operation achieved between the organisation and members of both Parties, and the urgent need to still further consolidate working class unity, the S.L.P. proposed in October, 1943, that discussions should take place regarding the amalgamation of the two Parties.

In our reply we stated that: "The Central Committee unanimously adopted a proposal to endorse the aim of uniting our two Parties, to organise discussions throughout the Communist Party organisations and to refer to the Consultative Committee, set up following our United Front agreement, the planning of details to be submitted later to Conferences of both Parties." Following discussion throughout both Parties the amalgamation agreement was endorsed by a full meeting of the Central Committee, Communist Party of Australia and a special conference of the S.L.P., and the amalgamation was finalised at a joint Conference of both Parties held in January, 1944, the amalgamated Party emerging as the Australian Communist Party.

As a result of the amalgamation Executive members of the S.L.P. were included in leading Committees of the Party. These were:

Central Committee: J. R. Hughes (also Political Committee), H. B. Chandler (also elected Secretary of the Organisation Committee of the C.C.), W. Gollan, A. Wilson, and E. Ross.

Metropolitan Committee: Comrades June Mills and F. Graham. Central Industrial Committee: E. W. Walsham. Other leading S.L.P. members were appointed to District and other Party Committees.

The United Party decided at its Conference, "as a further step to achieving full working-class unity," to apply for affiliation to the official A.L.P.

The proposals of the A.C.P. for affiliation to the Official Labor Party met with strong support from the unions, many A.L.P. Branches and officials and a considerable section of the rank and file A.L.P. members. However, opponents of working class unity have, to date, been able to have the State and Federal A.L.P. Conference decide against our affiliation proposals and other means proposed by our Party to reach some form of agreement for joint working class action in reply to the co-ordinated campaign of reaction.

In spite of the decisions of A.L.P. Conferences a high degree of practical unity between A.C.P. and A.L.P. branches and members has been achieved in campaigns conducted since the 13th Congress. This process was expressed particularly during the Referendum campaign when A.C.P. and A.L.P. members and members of neither Party co-operated fully and in utmost harmony in "Yes" Committees organised throughout the length and breadth of the country, in suburbs, work places, and country towns. This development has been expressed in the clearest fashion during election campaigns in all States where A.C.P. and A.L.P. members co-operated for the defeat of reaction, organised exchange of preferences, in some cases, despite official decision to the contrary, and in the day-to-day campaigns being conducted around local and workplace demands.

A further evidence of the desire of the masses of the A.L.P. for unity and to end the rule of the splitters in the A.L.P. has been demonstrated by the expulsion of Lang from the A.L.P. in N.S.W., the revolt of the rank and file and many unions against the Lovegrove group in Victoria, growing opposition

to Fallonism in Queensland, the defeat of Bardolph in South Australia. At the same time Congresses of the A.C.T.U. and of Federal Unions, held in this period, have endorsed the principle of working class unity.

Alongside the growth of working class unity there has taken place a significant development of worker-soldier unity expressed by N.S.W. Conferences on problems of servicemen held in May, 1943 and November 2nd, 1944, and the work of the N.S.W. and other State Services Committees. This unity was further strengthened by the decision of the April Conference of the Returned Soldiers' League to establish a Liaison Committee of R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. and N.S.W. Labor Council Services' Committee representatives to give joint attention to the questions of rehabilitation of service men and women.

Election Campaigns

The C.C. acted on the directions of the 13th Congress that "in unity with the members of the Labor Parties and other friends of the Labor Government, Communists will work for the return of greater numbers of supporters of Mr. Curtin . . . at the same time, the Communist Party will carry on its own propaganda on all questions and in a number of constituencies will put forward Party candidates, if possible in agreement with the Labor Party, at least for the exchange of preferences where both Parties nominate." The Party entered the Federal Elections under the slogan of returning the Curtin Government and electing Communist members of Parliament. The Party ran seventeen candidates and gave direct assistance to five N.S.W. State Labor Party candidates. In all areas where no Communist Party or State Labor Party was standing, Party organisations and members joined the campaign on behalf of the official A.L.P. candidate.

The elections resulted in an overwhelming victory of the Labor Government and a record vote for the Communist candidates. Particularly outstanding were the votes cast for Fred Paterson in Herbert (Queensland), S. Deacon, Newcastle (N.S.W.), Dr. Finger, Boothby (South Australia), and R. Gibson, Yarra (Victoria). In addition, S. Conway of the State Labor Party, polled particularly well.

During the Federal Election campaign considerable support was shown for the Party, its program and policy. Despite the fact that the workers went to the poll feeling that they must defeat the reactionary Parties at all costs; and that to achieve this aim they must vote (1) for the Labor Candidate and (2) for the Communist, the A.C.P. and State Labor Party candidates polled over 90,000 votes, a record achievement for Party Parliamentary activity.

This growing support for the A.C.P. as a Parliamentary force was expressed in the Victorian State Elections of June 1943, where the Party vote was double, and in some cases, treble that of the preceding elections. In this election Comrade J. D. Blake, Political Committee member, ran very close to winning the Port Melbourne seat.

This process was further expressed in the vote for Clarrie Boyd in the W.A. State election of November 20th, and in the splendid victory of Fred Paterson in the Queensland State elections of April, 1944, together with the record votes polled for other Communist candidates and the big increase in the Communist vote in the S.A. State election of May, 1944.

In the N.S.W. elections, held in May, 1944, again a record vote was polled, the Party candidate for Bulli, Jack Martin, receiving well over one-third of the votes cast. Analysing the results of the N.S.W. elections, the C.C. drew attention to the large vote for Lang candidates, and also to the fact that where there were C.P. candidates and Lang candidates, the latter polled much lower votes.

Our Party also recorded outstanding gains in the triennial municipal and shire elections in N.S.W. and had municipal successes in Queensland, W.A., S.A. and Victoria. The return of eighteen Communists in N.S.W., including one woman, and a majority in the Kearsley Shire Council, was a very fine achieve-

ment and has done much to change the course of Local Government in N.S.W., more in the direction of serving the majority of the people.

In addition, in N.S.W., we were able to assist in the return of fifteen of our United Front friends and many candidates of the Labor Party.

During the course of the election campaigns united action with the rank and file of the Labor Party reached a very high standard. In areas where relationship between the two working-class parties was good, Labor victories were registered. But where unity was rejected by the Labor Party, reaction in the main was victorious.

In many localities in the N.S.W. Municipal elections the Communist vote exceeded that of the Labor Party. This was particularly marked in Lake Macquarie, Kearsley and Central Illawarra. Similar figures were also recorded in other industrial areas where practically the whole community voted for the Party.

Communists were particularly successful where our members had been working among the people, struggling for improved conditions, and standing courageously for Party and anti-fascist policy, for unity and action.

Already our Councillors and Aldermen are getting results. Although they are faced with tremendous problems, they are building unity and drawing more people into the struggle for Victory, Peace and Security. Kearsley Shire Council, although restricted financially, has commenced planning playgrounds for children in the sixteen mining areas. Proposals for housing, town planning, municipal control of electricity and better transport are under consideration.

Our members in all Councils are determined to ensure that Local Government plays its full part in providing jobs, homes and security; that these bodies assist in providing for the re-establishment of men and women of the services; and that they really serve the people and not private enterprise. Communists are proving that the slogan "no politics" in Councils is "reactionary politics" and are setting a standard of work which must inevitably raise the level of Local Government.

The value of Communists in councils and Parliament has been most ably demonstrated by Comrade Fred Paterson who has shown, both as Alderman and State Member, how effectively the Communist voice in local and State affairs can serve the needs of the people.

Victory Campaign

The 13th Congress decided upon a number of programmatic demands for which the Central Committee was directed to organise campaigns for fulfilment. The demands formulated by the Congress were elaborated during the C.P.A.—State Labor Party Amalgamation and were finalised early in 1944.

It was in this period that the C.C. inaugurated the series of Party "Planning" campaigns which have culminated in the present highly-successful "Victory Campaign."

From May 1st to December 31st a National campaign was conducted to not only further increase Party membership, but also to consolidate those gained during the great 1942 recruiting drive and also to improve all phases of Party organisation and activity. In spite of many weaknesses, reflected in a falling off in recruiting and a growth of fluctuation during this period, the campaign achieved a number of successes and helped to connect the Party more firmly with the mass movements of the people.

This process was further developed in the Card Re-Issue Campaign of 1944, initiated by the C.C. in October 1943. In this campaign the C.C. called not only for full discussion in all Branches of Party policy and the responsibilities and advantages of Party membership, but also for the formulation of a Branch Plan of work for achievement during the months of January, February and March, 1944. In this campaign many successes were achieved, the outstanding one being the adoption of the principle of State, District and Branch planning of activities to be carried out over a certain period.

Arising from the success of Branch planning shown during the card Re-issue campaign and in order to have the General Party Program explained to the people in the clearest terms and their support obtained, the C.C. decided in March 1944 to launch a great Victory Campaign with the major objectives:—

1. To secure widespread popularisation of and support for the Victory, Peace and Security Program of the A.C.P.
2. To concretise, in every locality and workplace, the General Program to local needs and to develop the broadest campaign for the implementation of this local program.
3. In the course of this activity to establish the closest relations with A.L.P. branches and members who would also be interested in the local campaign.
4. To considerably extend Party Propaganda activity and more rapidly bring new members into the Party.

Though weaknesses can be found, nevertheless the victory campaign has been an outstanding success. In scores of towns, suburbs and workplaces throughout Australia, local programs based on the General Program, have been prepared, printed and distributed and Branches are carrying out broad campaigns for their realisation.

Of the many mass campaigns conducted in this period special mention must be made of the fine campaign of the S.A. Communists for a reduction in charges made by the Adelaide Electricity Company and the consistent campaign of the Victorian Communists against the reactionary policy of the Dunstan Government and for the urgent needs of the Victorian people.

The consistent efforts of the C.C. to have our branches really get down to mass work around local needs, to give far more attention to local Government matters and to lay a solid foundation for Parliamentary election activities are at last bearing fruit. This development has been mainly responsible for the municipal election victories gained in all States.

With the decision of the Federal Government to allocate £200,000,000 for works to be carried out now and when the war is over, and the establishment of Regional Development Councils with the responsibility of submitting proposals concerning Regional needs, planning has entered a new phase. Already in several States (particularly N.S.W.) the Party organisations are engaged in the preparation of a Party Program for the Region. In Victoria, S.A., and W.A., State Programs have been prepared.

In addition to the production of local, Regional and State Programs over half a million copies of the General Program were distributed, and a series of Program pamphlets: "Slums, Housing, Private Enterprise and the Future," "A Plan for the Fighting Man," "Every Farmer Well-to-do," "A New Deal for Women," were issued.

Party Growth

During the first round of the Victory Campaign over 4,000 new members joined the Party. Whilst this figure did not reach that aimed for, it represented a continual steady growth. Although fluctuation has been a serious feature of Party organisation and, despite improvement, is still too high, the absolute growth of the Party is heartening.

In 1932 the C.P.A. numbered 2,058 members; by 1936, in four years, the figure had increased to 3,252. The two years period from 1936 to 1938 added only 3.7 new members, making a total of 3,569, and just over 4,000 when the Party was declared illegal in June, 1940.

During the period of illegality the figures began to jump sharply, by May 1942 reaching 7,200; by December 1942, 16,000 and March 1943, approximately 20,000. In a little over 2½ years the membership had grown five times.

This enormous influx, combined with the temporary loss of leading cadres to the services and war production, plus, in some cases, indiscriminate recruiting, resulted in a sharp rise in the rate of fluctuation with the result that a member-

ship check in December 1943 revealed not more than 17,049 members and even this figure was probably exaggerated. By December 31st, 1944, the membership stood at 22,052 and is increasing at the rate of between 500 and 600 per month.

Whilst this steady growth is healthy, it still lags behind existing possibilities and can be considerably increased. This is clearly demonstrated by the fulfilment by S.A. of its recruiting quota, over-fulfilment by three N.S.W. Districts and fine individual recruiting achievements such as that of Comrade Sharry (Queensland)—30 members in three months; L. Bloomfield and Don Lawrence (W.A.) 28 and 20 respectively, and over 50 other members who gained five or more new members in July-December period of 1944.

Through "Forward," the "Communist Review," by letters to the Party organisation and other means, the C.C. has consistently campaigned for a bolder, better planned approach to recruiting and for the adoption of the necessary organisational measures to ensure that new members were given the necessary attention and helped to develop in the Party, and that an end be put to the laxity shown in handling the transfer of members from one Party organisation to another.

Considerable attention was given to this problem by the Central Organising Committee. The system of Group Organisers was initiated and, despite existing weaknesses, has brought about improvement. Recently a decision was taken for the appointment in every Branch of a Membership Director whose task will be to ensure that all the needs of the Branch Members are given attention, to keep the Branch records and deal with transfers. Also the organisation Committee prepared a complete and improved system of membership recording and method of dealing with transfers.

Western Australia, despite serious cadres difficulties, won the awards for best State achievement during the first six months of the Victory campaign, N.S.W. gained two monthly awards whilst other States gained one each. South Australia, Victoria and N.S.W. and W.A. (dead-heat) have gained awards for the first three months of 1945.

Party Publicity

There has been a big expansion of Party publicity activity since the 13th Congress. The "Tribune" reappeared in its present form in June 1943, and appeared as a bi-weekly early in 1945. State papers, "Guardian," Victoria, "Guardian," Queensland, and "Workers' Star," Western Australia, were re-established, enlarged and improved both in content and presentation. South Australia, whilst having no State paper, now has special space in the "Tribune" for South Australian news. The circulation of all papers has rapidly grown and is limited only by newsprint restrictions. The "Communist Review" has been enlarged, improved technically and has achieved widespread popularity amongst non-Party as well as Party members. Of outstanding importance in connection with the "Communist Review" is the fact that of 286 articles published between April 1943, and February 1945, 222 were written by contributors within Australia, and 64 outside Australia. Of the 222 contributed by Australian writers, 181 were on national matters and 41 on international and other subjects.

In the period from April 1st, 1943 to March 31st, 1945, we issued 76 books and pamphlets, 56 published by the C.C. and 20 by States with a total circulation of approximately 1,380,000 copies. In addition, 9,000 copies of the Short History and 1,000 Problems of Leninism as well as a large number of publications comprising the former Anvil Stocks and imported political works were sold. Of the books and pamphlets produced here, 42 were by Australian authors and the remainder reprints.

Considerable advances were made in the use of radio and in other forms of oral propaganda (mass rallies, hall and cottage and workplace meetings, etc.).

Outstanding success has been achieved through organised propaganda tours, the outlines of Party policy by our propagandists being enthusiastically received in town and country areas throughout the Commonwealth.

In other phases of publicity, such as the issue of leaflets and bulletins, posters, letters to the press and press advertising, hoarding displays and participation in anniversary and other mass demonstrations, the work has been good, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Party Education

The increased interest in and development of Party training noted at the 13th Congress has been maintained and has received improved central co-ordination and guidance. At the time of the 13th Congress, Sydney Marx School had not long been established and new plans for branch education had only just been put into effect. Since then Marx Schools have become firmly consolidated in several States and some N.S.W. districts and branch education has improved considerably.

Marx School, Sydney, has more than 1,000 individual members and conducts evening classes, week-end and fortnightly schools and theoretical lectures every Sunday night. Sunday night lectures attract an average attendance of 150 to 200. Evening classes are attended regularly by about the same number. The subject matter of these classes is varied, covering a wide range including the basic works of Marxism and local theoretical and organisational problems.

At the time of the 13th Congress evening classes on six or seven subjects were conducted and the total attendance was about 30 to 40 students a week. Subjects now included number 32. New courses on Music, Art, Literature and Science add further interest to the curriculum.

Branch education has received much attention, a large number of branches holding classes on the recommended material.

The problem of improving attendance of students and quality of tutors is being slowly overcome by special attention to tutors and education cadres. Concerts have been organised successfully by Marx School.

The combination of artistic and political activity is being well received.

Since the 13th Congress the Central Education Committee has been able to assist in developing education in country districts in N.S.W.

Tutors and speakers have been sent at various times to Lithgow, Newcastle, Cessnock, West Maitland, Wollongong and Broken Hill for theoretical lectures, one-day schools or more extended courses.

In this connection special mention must be made of the fine efforts of the South Coast District which since the 13th Congress has done particularly well in specialised schooling. These have been instrumental in developing some good local cadres and will be continued at three monthly intervals in future. Good work has also been carried out by Hunter Valley and Newcastle Marx Schools.

Victoria has established a central educational institution. Difficulties were caused by the lack of premises, but these have now been obtained. Melbourne Marx School has about 300 members. Sunday night lecture attendances fell off but have now considerably improved. Central classes have become stabilised with steady attendances. The Central Education Committee arranged for a tutor to conduct two schools which had some success and the experience gained should be valuable for future schools in the State. In Tasmania, occasional classes only are being held, no suitable tutors being available. Recently week and week-end schools have been organised with tutors from Victoria.

Queensland had a very satisfactory school conducted by a tutor from the Central Education Committee, and held in addition a number of other extended courses.

Many schools have been held in Brisbane, others have covered Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Maryborough.

Branch education in Brisbane and other centres is improving.

South Australia has received two visits from a member of the Central Education Committee. A number of successful schools were held in Adelaide, and one in Whyalla. Cadres difficulties have tended to retard Party education in South Australia, but since these visits there has been marked improvement. Most branches have classes on Study Course 1 or 2, and five or six Central classes have been established to cater for more advanced students. Week-end schools are also held with some degree of success.

A weakness is that attendance is still low, approximately 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. of branch membership, but this is considerably higher than previous level.

In W.A. some attempt is made for regular, organised education at Perth centre and in Fremantle and other suburbs with moderate effect.

Arts and Sciences

The Central Arts and Sciences Committee which was established after the 13th National Congress, was charged with the responsibility of raising the artistic-cultural content of propaganda and mass work, and of developing Party organisation and activity among artists, scientists, doctors and other professional people.

The efforts of the Arts and Sciences Committee have been attended by no mean measure of success. Many artists, doctors and scientists in agriculture, chemistry, industry and other fields have entered the Party and have carried out valuable work. Evidence was presented to the N.S.W. Bread Enquiry, the Joint Parliamentary Committee of Social Security established by the Federal Government and the Birthrate Enquiry.

The Medical Committee of the Party has made a number of important statements; among these was a statement on malaria which contained a demand for a biological survey of Australian mosquitoes, of the malarial genera, and other steps to be taken to prevent this disease becoming endemic in this country. This statement excited considerable official interest and has been accepted by the authorities.

Success is also recorded in the field of industrial health. Specialist advice has been given to unions and shop committees and a programme read by Comrade O'Donnell was unanimously endorsed by the Newcastle Industrial Health Conference. A similar paper containing some programmatic material read by Comrade John Callaghan, Master of Science at the Kolling Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital, was unanimously endorsed by a similar conference in Wollongong.

Many workers at meetings organised in N.S.W. by Unions and shop committees have heard the Party medical policy, particularly applied to T.B., in association with speakers from the Anti-T.B. Appeal. We have been instrumental in raising hundreds of pounds for this Appeal in joint activity with the Association.

Authoritative works in medicine and science by Communists and others associated with the Arts and Sciences Committee, have appeared in leading scientific and technical journals.

Here, in the field of literature and graphic art, one may mention specifically the work of such members of our Party as V. O'Connor, Noel Counihan, George Farwell, Katherine Susannah Prichard, William Hatfield, Dr. H. I. Jensen and many others.

An important event in this connection was the republication of Earl Browder's "Communism and Literature" which provoked a wide interest and clarified many issues for writers outside the ranks of the working class movement. In addition a series of Party Cultural Conferences for the classification of theory (Marxism and Art, Etc.) were held in Sydney.

Co-operation with many bodies has been achieved. We may record with pride that our members have participated in such organisations as the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts, People's Cultural Council, and many Art, Scientific and Literary Societies.

Similar activity is now well under way in Queensland and Victoria and should soon develop in other States.

Activity Among Women

The need to turn to mass work was discussed by the C.C. Women's Committee following the 13th National Congress and the 1943 Conference for work among women, held in N.S.W. Such a turn was developing, particularly in Victoria and Queensland. In Victoria, the Party Committee organised a series of discussions with Executive members of the Red Cross, Y.W.C.A., Housewives' Association, Pre-school Child Committee, etc., and in the same year, in Queensland, a Party member was elected one of the organisers of the Queensland State Conference called by the National Council of Women. The Australian Women's Conference for Victory in War and Victory in Peace, in which the Party participated, was held in November 1943. We regard this as one of the most important steps yet taken in an effort to co-ordinate the work of Australian women's organisations nationally. The Communist Party in Victoria, South Australia and the Central Committee Women's Committee sent representatives and later the Party became a signatory to the Australian Women's Charter which was endorsed by the Conference. Charter Committees have since been formed in the majority of States.

The C.C. Women's Committee has given attention, each year, to the International Women's Day celebrations which in 1943 and 1944 reached a much higher level of achievement than previously. I.W.D. is now recognised as a time for reviewing the status of women and the struggle for equal rights and opportunity by the main women's organisations throughout Australia.

The Committee has taken part in the majority of campaigns in which the Party has been active—giving special attention to child-care, maternal welfare and the birthrate, social services, and lower paid wage groups.

Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and N.S.W. held conferences on work among women in 1943. The Central Committee organised its Second National Conference for work among women in 1944. These Conferences have played an important part in giving the Party membership an understanding of the importance and methods of work among women. Conference resolutions have been studied by all leading Party Committees and used as class material in Victoria and N.S.W.

In addition to the Central Women's Committee, Women's Committees in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and West Australia have been established during the past three years. In all states these Committees have gained knowledge of non-Party Women's organisations, trends, aims, objectives and their constitutions, and in some cases, common action is the result. In 1944, Victoria was able to tell us that Party influence and activity was profoundly affecting the work of other organisations who accept our policy on its own merit.

Articles have been organised consistently for the "Review," "Forward," "Tribune," and "Progress." "A New Deal for Women" takes its place as No. 4 in the A.C.P. Programme series. Special talks of interest to women are now heard over the air in N.S.W., West Australia, Victoria and South Australia, while a number of leaflets and other publicity material have been issued.

The Central Women's Committee has been officially represented on two Government enquiries—Bread, and V.D. Broadcasting.

In 1944 it presented the King George Hospital for Mothers and Babies with £250 collected by members of the A.C.P. for this purpose.

In this period members of the Committee visited Queensland (twice), Victoria and South Australia, and assisted in the development of State organisation and activity.

Central Organisation Committee

The Central Organisation Committee has given attention to the main organisational problems confronting the Party. It organised and supervised the Party campaigns from 1943 to the second round of the Victory Campaign, 1945.

Main attention was given to Party mass campaigning, growth and the establishment of that form of Party organisation that ensures not only the holding of new members, but also the consolidation and development. In this regard the campaign for group organisers, and latterly, membership directors, plus membership recording systems has contributed materially to stabilising Party organisation. For the first time Party statistics, despite difficulties created by wartime movement, are essentially correct.

Proposals for changes in Branch, Zone and District organisation for various States have been considered, distortions corrected and recommendations made to, and in all cases endorsed by the Central Committee.

The Central Organisational Journal of the C.C., "Forward," under the editorship of L. Donald, developed from the previous "Party Builder" and, as the volume of correspondence now received shows, plays a vital part in the day-to-day mass work of the Party.

On the initiative of the Organisation Committee, a series of pamphlets have been issued. These include: "Branch Organisation and Work"; "Branch Organisation and Work" (revised edition); "Hints on Public Speaking"; "Conducting an Election Campaign," "Party Activity and Finance"; "How to Study"; "Work Among Women"; "How to Win Rural Workers and Farmers to the C.P."; "Outline for Work with Municipal and Shire Councils." "How to be a Good Tutor"; "How to Win Elections" (revised, enlarged and brought up-to-date); "How to Organise the Victory Campaign"; "Let's Talk About Publicity."

Since the 13th Congress a number of Organising and Propaganda visits have been made by Party Leaders to all States and to N.S.W. Country Centres. These visits have assisted materially in raising the level of political and organisational consciousness and activity throughout the Party and in making Party policy better known to large numbers of Australian people.

C.I. Dissolution

In June, 1943, the C.C. received the proposal of the E.C.C.I. that the Communist International should be dissolved.

A full meeting of the Political Committee decided to cable the C.I. Headquarters (Moscow): "Dimitrov, Secretary, Comintern, Moscow: Political Committee Australian Party endorses proposals dissolve Comintern. Party organisations directed discuss and vote on recommendation. We believe decision will result strengthening Australian anti-Fascist front. Are urging further greater war effort, more blows at enemy, establishment united front all workers' organisations. Miles, Secretary, Comparty, Australia."

The same meeting adopted a resolution to be put before all Party organisations:

"The Political Committee of the Communist Party of Australia has decided to endorse the proposals for the dissolution of the Communist International and to recommend its acceptance by all Party organisations.

"In view of great difficulties involved in reconvening the Party Congress it was also decided that all Party Branches and Committees discuss and vote on the C.I. proposals at their next meeting.

"The basis for discussion will be the statement of the Comintern published in this issue of the Tribune.

"N.S.W. Country Branches will forward their decisions to the Central Committee. Other Branches will inform the District Committee of their decision."

The result of the voting, reported to the subsequent C.C. meeting was not only unanimous approval of the step proposed, but also included a number of declarations that, now the Australian and other Parties had reached full maturity, more responsibility would be undertaken to justify the new stature that our Party had attained.

This campaign assisted materially in developing, politically and organisationally, all Party Branches and Committees.

Acting on a special resolution from the 13th Congress, the C.C. developed a national campaign for the restoration of the Party property seized by the Menzies reaction in 1940.

Following the considerable pressure from Unions, A.L.P. Branches, public meetings and other forms of democratic opinion, the Federal Government reached a satisfactory agreement with the Party regarding restoration of those assets seized.

Central Agrarian Committee

The work of the Agrarian Department has been hampered due to the loss of cadres. Also in the earlier period its main attention was taken up with attention to the problems of Country Branches. With the development of Party organisation in N.S.W. expressed in the formation of the Riverina, Central Western and North Coast and Tablelands District Committees, and the extension of South Coast, Newcastle and Hunter River boundaries, it became possible to reorganise the work of the Central Agrarian Committee. Since this organisation National contact has improved. Programs for various sections of the farming population have appeared or are in course of preparation, the Committee has contact with farmers within N.S.W. State Agrarian Committees and with members throughout the Commonwealth who are in contact with farmers and farmers' problems.

Youth Activity

Youth organisation and activity reached its lowest point in 1941. However, toward the end of that year there was a revival and progress continued during 1942. The 13th Congress resolution drew attention to this development.

"The war period has witnessed a growth of youth organisations in all States, in trade unions, factories and localities. All sections of the labor movement should assist to unify and greatly extend this movement. The Communist Party, while in no way infringing the independence of these organisations, declares its support for them and its readiness to give assistance for their further development.

"Collaboration has taken place between the youth of the labor movement and other youth bodies. These united actions of the young generation, irrespective of Party or denomination, point the way to winning the whole young generation to the national front for Victory."

Under the leadership of Cde. Miles, great improvement has taken place in Party attention to the problems and organisations of the youth. The practice of taking away youth cadres, or "beheading the youth" has been largely overcome, and today the great majority of our young members are fulfilling their duty to the youth of Australia.

In this period the Party has given utmost support to the State, national and international movements of the youth.

Party Finance

Since the 13th Congress the C.C. has given a great deal of attention to the Party finances, not only from the viewpoint of C.C. income, but also to ensure that all Party organisations were aware not only of central liabilities, but also of the need to ensure a regular income in order to develop their own mass work.

Though weaknesses were shown in the earlier period the Central Finance Committee has now become a central organ of national finance activities. In the period under review much has been done by the Central Finance Committee to establish budgeting as a national procedure, thus improving the income of all Party organisations and stimulating the drive for regular contributions for Party funds from all supporters.

Campaigns conducted for 100 per cent. dues payment have met with real success, and although there is still laxity, it can be claimed that the great majority of our members are today 100 per cent. financial.

Emerging from illegality, and faced with great financial problems in re-establishing the Party apparatus, the C.C. decided to impose a levy on all members according to earnings. This drive, supervised by the C.C. Finance Committee, was extremely successful, all quotas being fulfilled by over 90 per cent.

The Committee has also made a valuable contribution to Party efficiency by devising and introducing on a national scale a uniform book-keeping system. "How to Organise Finance" and another pamphlet on finance activity shortly to be produced arose from the activity of the Finance Committee. The balance sheet presented to Congress shows the financial transactions of the C.C. between the 13th and 14th Congresses.

Central Headquarters

An event of national importance was the establishment of the Central Headquarters of the Party in a modern four-storey building in Sydney. The new building not only gives greater efficiency at less cost than the scattered offices of the Central Committee entailed, but also results in a considerable raising of the prestige of the Party.

This report would be incomplete if it did not pay tribute to the 600 odd Party members and non-Party friends who gave their services after finishing their day's work, to make our Central Headquarters what they are today.