

Ten Years of the Workers International Relief.

The Central Committee of the Workers International Relief publishes the following appeal:

In August 1931 it will be ten years since, on Lenin's suggestion, the Workers International Relief was founded. In the nearly ten years of its existence the Workers International Relief has carried through unweariedly, and thanks to the self-sacrificing support of millions of toilers in all countries, a number of international relief actions of the greatest political importance, and supported thousands of strikes and economic struggles.

Some of these actions, such as the relief action for the famine-stricken Volga districts in 1921, for China, Japan, for the English miners in 1926 and for the German proletariat in the famine winter of 1923 and during the Seeckt dictatorship, constitute the greatest international solidarity actions recorded in the history of the revolutionary labour movement.

Since its existence the Workers International Relief has collected the huge sum of 3½ to 4 million pounds and distributed it in its relief actions. What enormous self-sacrifice, what splendid solidarity of many thousands of proletarians and what work of the W. I. R. members and friends is contained in this sum, which has been collected penny by penny.

The W. I. R. is today an important and indispensable portion of the revolutionary labour front and is acquiring an ever increasing importance for the class struggles as a result of the economic mass fights which are breaking out more frequently and growing in extent.

Our bourgeois opponents have in vain attempted to check the growth of the mass movement of the W. I. R. or to suppress it by means of police prohibitions, chicaneries on the part of the authorities on the occasion of collections and relief actions, by campaigns of calumny and by the setting up of rival organisations (S. P. of Germany: Workers' Welfare Centre, Hitler: National Socialist Workers' Relief).

Supported by the sympathy and the devotion of many millions of workers and small peasants, as well as of intellectuals who sympathise with it, the W. I. R. has in its ten years' existence created the greatest international organisation and undertakings, which constitute important channels for approaching broad indifferent masses of workers, peasants and petty bourgeois.

The Workers' International Relief today numbers in its organisations 15 to 16 million individual and collective members. During the last few months a number of W. I. R. national organisations, such as the German, Austrian, Dutch etc., have recruited a considerable number of new members, whilst in a number of other countries such as Switzerland, Iceland, Canada, Bolivia, new W. I. R. Sections have been set up. In India and China the first W. I. R. committees have been established.

On the occasion of the ten years' existence of the W. I. R. the International Central Committee of the W. I. R. is convening for September 1931 a broad international Congress of the Workers' International Relief. Particulars regarding the place of the Congress, the exact date and the agenda will be sent out in due course by the General Secretariat.

But today we already call upon all W. I. R. organisations, all committees and members, as well as friends of the W. I. R., to assist in the ideological, organisational and financial preparation of the Congress. A broad discussion on the programme, the principles and the tasks of the W. I. R. must be carried out in all countries by all W. I. R. organisations, committees and friends.

In Spring 1931 an intensive mass recruiting of individual and collective members must be carried out in all countries. It is our aim, by means of the "ten years' recruitment", to reach the figure of 20 million members of the W. I. R. by the time of the International Congress. Special collections to finance strong delegations to the International Congress must be carried out in all countries. In addition to the delegates of W. I. R. organisations and their women's, youth's and children's departments, the delegations shall include representatives of factories, of collectively affiliated bodies and of other workers' organisations. The undersigned Central committee send a brotherly invitation to all revolutionary organisations, in particular the

Red trade unions, the Minority groups in the trade unions, the small peasant and peasant organisations, the committees and organisations of the unemployed, the International League of the War Victims, the International Red Aid, the red sport organisations and all other social, political and cultural workers' organisations to send delegations to this Congress.

The economic crisis prevails in all capitalist countries and is assuming ever sharper forms. The ruling class is attempting by means of ruthless rationalisation and fascist dictatorial measures to cast the enormous burdens of the world war and of the world crisis on to the shoulders of the working and peasant masses. Rationalisation, cutting down of social welfare, increase of customs duties and taxes with a simultaneous reduction of wages—these are the means used by the employers in all capitalist countries in order to overcome the crisis. The consequences are, increasing poverty, famine and misery in millions of workers' families. By the participation of all the proletarian organisations the Congress must become a powerful international demonstration against the cutting down of social welfare in all capitalist countries.

Workers. Toilers of all countries! Take part in the discussions for the World Congress of the W. I. R. Elect delegates to the Congress and join the Workers' International Relief, the most active and greatest proletarian relief organisation of the world.