

The Book Union

THE formation of the Book Union, a book club for the distribution of proletarian novels and poetry, Marxist classics hitherto unpublished and new Marxist works in the social sciences and history, is a much needed and overdue event. The capitalist publishing world is, of course, both incapable of providing and increasingly unwilling to further proletarian literature and Marxist thought even though these constitute the most vital developments in contemporary culture.

The average American bookshop offers a ludicrously incomplete stock. Current works of fiction, popular biographies, travel books, and such philosophical effusions as those of Walter B. Pitkin and Will Durant compose practically its entire catalog. It is a rare bookseller indeed who carries any proletarian novels of Marxist works, though there is a growing demand for them even on the part of many middle-class elements.

Obviously, a new publishing and distributive apparatus is now essential for the growth of revolutionary literature, and the Book Union is designed to fill this need. Drawing upon the experiences of the Theatre Union and the commercial book clubs, the Book Union will adapt their methods to working class needs. Instead of a large sum for a fixed number of books each year, a dollar membership fee entitles the subscriber to substantial discounts on the selected books, with one book free, as a dividend, for each four books purchased. In addition, Book Union members will receive lists and literary information to keep them in constant, immediate touch with proletarian literature.

The Book Union looks to working-class organizations for its support. Several labor unions, a chain of workers' schools, The International Workers' Order, The Friends of the Soviet Union and other organizations, some of them with memberships running into scores of thousands and with branches scattered all over the country, are making support of the Book Union a part of their program. THE NEW MASSES joins with them in the support of this project. It does so because it sees in the spread of the literature to which the Book Union will devote itself an arming of the working class with the same inspiration and knowledge as the magazine seeks to effect. It sees in the spread of this literature an effective aid in the fight against fascism. Finally, in the creation of a wide audience for proletarian writers and scholars, the Book Union can provide a stimulus to proletarian writers that should result in a great heightening and expansion of proletarian culture.

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Between Ourselves

JOSHUA KUNITZ'S article in this issue is the final chapter of his forthcoming volume on the Soviet Peoples of Central Asia, *Dawn over Samarkand*, scheduled for May publication by Covici-Friede.

A. B. Magil, our Detroit correspondent, has collected a good deal of his material on Father Coughlin into pamphlet form: *The Truth About Father Coughlin*, published by the Workers' Library Publishers, price 5c.

Among the other contributors to this issue are Edward Dahlberg, author of *Bottom Dogs, Those Who Perish*, and literary editor of the forthcoming magazine, *Action*; John Howard Lawson, author of *Processional, Success Story* and other plays; Edward Newhouse, author of *You Can't Sleep Here*, a first novel published last fall.

Many of our subscribers are complaining of delay in delivery of their copy. Many subscribers in Washington, D. C., Boston, Chicago, etc., claimed that they were receiving copies Tuesday and Wednesday, although the magazine was at that time being mailed every Friday.

We call our subscribers' attention to the fact that copies are now mailed Wednesday to most subscribers. If your copy comes late, you should make a complaint to your local postmaster in writing, send us a copy

of the complaint and we will follow it up from this end.

New Masses Lectures

Friday April 19

James Casey, "The Role of the Press," at 1207 Kings Highway, Brooklyn. Auspices: Ernst Thaelmann Branch, I. W. O.

Sender Garlin, "The Inside Story of Huey P. Long," at 1373-43rd St., Brooklyn. Auspices: I.W.O. Branch Y 4.

Harry Carlisle, "Fascist Terror in California," People's Church 709 North 11th St., Milwaukee, Wis. Auspices: Writer's Group John Reed Club.

Ashley Pettis, "Modern Soviet Music," at 8:30 P. M. at 35 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, Conn. Auspices: John Reed Club.

Sunday April 21

William E. Browder, "The Middle Class Must Choose," 2075-86th St., Brooklyn. Auspices: Branch 817 and 140, I. W. O. 8:30 P. M.

Benjamin Goldstein-Rabbi I. Weinstein, debate "Which Way Out for the Jew—Biro Bidjan or Palestine?" Herman Ridder High School, E. 173rd St. and Boston Road, Bronx, N. Y. 8:30 P. M.

Monday April 22

Harry Carlisle, "California, Home of Fascist Reaction," 8:30 P. M., 108 West Hancock, Detroit, Mich. Auspices: John Reed Club.

Thursday April 25

Sender Garlin, "The Inside Story of Huey P. Long," at Park Manor Hall, 32nd and Montgomery Sts., Phila., Pa., 8:30 P. M. Auspices: Philadelphia District, International Labor Defense.

DREISER'S LETTERS ON THE JEWS

—the novelist's correspondence published recently
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An Interview With Dreiser

and an editorial analysis of his actual stand
on this important question will appear in

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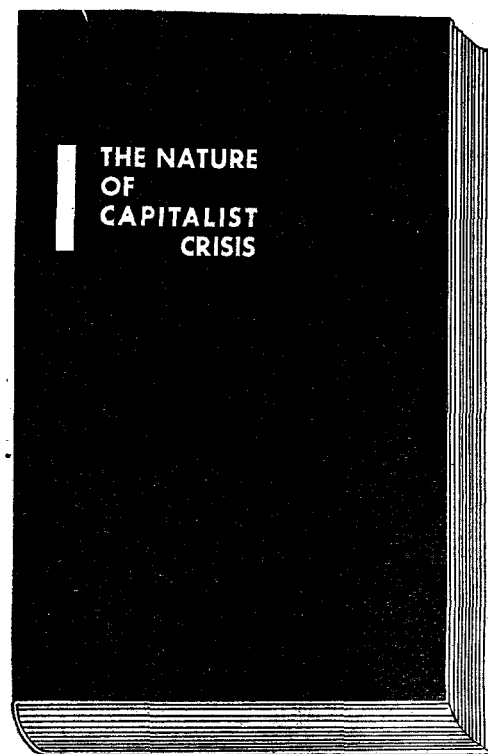
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