

Earl Browder, 'Blood and Bone of U. S. A.'

LIFE STORY OF THE COMMUNIST CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

The Daily Worker begins today to publish the life story of Earl Browder, Communist candidate for the presidency of the United States, written by M. J. Olgin, noted Communist and editor of the Morning Freiheit.

By M. J. Olgin

Earl Browder was nominated as presidential candidate on the Communist Party ticket in the 1936 elections. The nomination convention was attended by 25,000 working men and women, with many thousands unable to gain admission. When the veteran labor leader, Robert Minor, who made the nomination speech, wound up with the words, "I propose that this conven-

nineteenth century into a country which was almost virgin. For a long while he lived in a dug-out. He cultivated the land.

Later, when Kansas became a more populous State, Browder Senior became a teacher. He was one of those sturdy American teachers of the Middle West who combined a life of heavy toil with his work in the classroom. Earl Browder comes from a family knew both how to work and how think. His father early became interested in public affairs. He first a Populist, then he became

It may be interesting to the electorate to know that the family hails from Virginia and the first Browders to be mentioned in the annals of Virginia belong to the seventeenth century. They have a right to say that they are among the founders of



Earl Browder, standard-bearer of 20th Century Americanism, is shown at the microphone during a nationwide broadcast; at Penn station with Robert Minor, Communist candidate for governor of New York, and answering cheers of the crowd that greeted him after his release from Terre Haute jail.

—Daily Worker Staff Photographer



tion now nominates for President of the United States, Earl Browder," there was an outburst of enthusiasm the like of which has not been seen in any American political gathering of recent years.

The great assembly was swept by a wave of enthusiasm which was genuine and heartfelt and entirely different from the "made" enthusiasm so common at conventions of the other political parties. There were respect and love and pride in the hearts of those tens of thousands for their candidate, Earl Browder.

"BLOOD AND BONE OF AMERICA"

"Our candidate is blood and bone of America," said Robert Minor.

Earl Browder comes from the very heart of America, from the state of Kansas. His father was one of the settlers of Kansas. His father had come in the third quarter of the

They are of the "blood and bone" of America.

WORKING AT NINE

At the age of six, the boy Earl Browder began to attend the country grammar school, near Wichita, Kansas, where his father taught. At the age of nine, he left school and went to work. He never again spent any time within the walls of a school. The man who rose to heights of culture and who acquired a deep and many-sided knowledge which makes him stand out as one of the most educated men in the United States acquired all this in the hours after work.

He had to go to work so young because his father fell sick. Sometimes the father was able to work in the fields or in the city as a day laborer, but most of the time he was bedridden. For his family, which consisted of eight persons at home, these were difficult times. Everyone

had to put in his share of work to help keep the wolf from the door.

Young Earl becomes a cash boy in a department store. He works sixty-five hours for a dollar and fifty cents per week. But the boy is intelligent. He is quick to learn. He makes progress in his work. From cash boy he becomes telegraph messenger.

At fifteen he is an errand boy in a wholesale drug house. He begins with a salary of \$3.50 for a week of 55 to 60 hours, but he rises steadily; from errand boy to office boy, to ledger clerk to bookkeeper, and finally, at the age of twenty-one, he is chief accountant of the whole business.

HE DID HIS WORK WELL

"How were you treated in the places you worked?" he was asked recently.

To which he replied in that deliberate way which is so characteristic of Browder.

"I was well handled personally almost everywhere I worked."

We understand why. He did his work well. He had that feeling of responsibility which distinguishes Browder among millions of others. You look at him and you know this man is reliable. You can trust him with anything.

Working hard ten hours and more a day, Earl Browder found time to

study. There was an irresistible urge in the boy. He could not attend school. His days were taken at work. Others would have remained untutored. Not Browder. That flame that burns in him quietly but incessantly had to be satisfied.

The boy studies evenings, Sundays, holidays. His father and mother, among a multitude of worries, find time to stimulate and guide this urge. He studies nights. He gets up early before work to be able to read an hour or two. He studies mathematics, history, elementary science, literature. He reads voraciously. In a few years he had read everything in the local library.

Messenger boy, errand boy, ledger clerk, bookkeeper—but already strange visions are stirring in the mind of the boy. Broad vistas open before his eyes. What he reads is not abstract to him. He is not a passive listener to people's opinions that he finds in print. The future revolutionist is active, even from childhood. He draws conclusions. He applies what he reads to the experiences of his own life and the lives of the working people around him. It is natural for him to become a Socialist. After all, he had heard Socialist conversations in his own family. He had found books on socialism. He had examined what

he read and found that the Socialist idea was true.

And here we have another trait of Earl Browder's character. Once he realizes something is true, he has to carry it into life. He cannot keep it to himself. He is not one of those who muse and ponder and reflect for the sake of "intellectual experience." With him thought and action are combined. Having recognized the truth of socialism, he joins the Socialist Party and at the age of fifteen we see him a full-fledged member active in the local branch of the organization.

He is a mere boy. He is interested in play and sports. But while other boys do not know of anything else, he goes to Socialist meetings, distributes leaflets, makes Socialist propaganda in his own small way.

(To be Continued)