

Teaching With Pictures

Visual Charts Are Being Used in Union Halls and Organizations Throughout U. S.

By Jacob Kainen

Night in the deep South. A group of sharecroppers are gathered around a fire in a clearing. Facing the fire is a large chart covered with pictures and diagrams. The men are discussing the pictures and facts in animated fashion, going from point to point. Across the top of the chart is printed in large black letters, "The Tenant Farmer and Sharecropper," and the pictures are representations of the farmers themselves. They see their friends and enemies. They see the whole set-up in sharp, clear-cut fashion, backed up by facts and statistics. They know how they must act.

The chart they are using is one of the many produced by the Visual Education Press, 840 Broadway, in New York City. In a less dramatic manner the same scene is being enacted in many union halls and progressive centers throughout the country. The visual method of education is rapidly gaining an important place on the programs of many organizations. And it's small wonder.

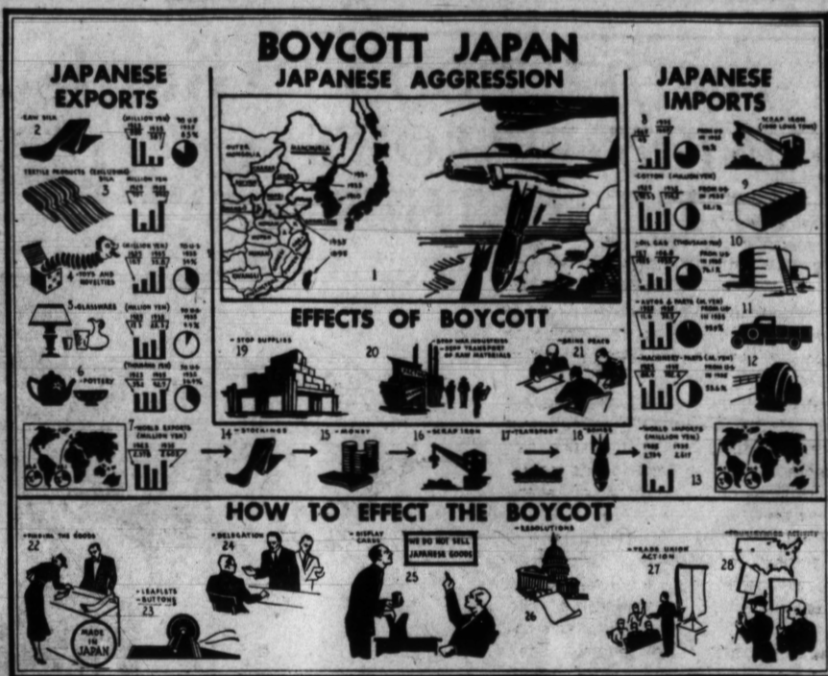
People get tired of listening to several hours of words, words, words. They want interesting pictures and less talk and that's just what the Visual Education Discussion Charts give them. With one of those charts an inexperienced speaker can teach an audience more in 20 minutes than a smooth talker could accomplish in two hours. If you want proof, Willard H. Edwards, director of Visual Education Press, can show you unsolicited testimonials from scores of organizations to that effect.

It's all very simple. A speaker just can't get stuck when he has the large chart by his side—all he has to do is to point to the pictures. The printed lecture which accompanies the chart gives facts and figures, names and dates. Every picture is numbered and the lecture has a few paragraphs to say about each picture. For the rest, there are graphs, statistics and diagrams to make everything doubly clear.

The speaker is easily prepared by reading the lecture over a few times before he delivers his talk; then he can localize it a bit by referring to some of the more intimate facts and situations in the specific organization he addresses.

The advantages of these charts are tremendous. Practically anyone can become a speaker and teacher with them. They develop the initiative and raise the educational level of an organization in record time. Dues payments become more prompt and meetings are attended more regularly.

Many large C. I. O. unions are using the charts regularly, among them the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the United Automobile Workers of America, the United Shoe Workers of America and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union. The American League for Peace and Democracy, the Farmers' Holiday Association, the American Labor Party, the Workers' Alliance, the International Workers' Order, the Cooperative Movement and the United American Artists are among the groups using them, together with branches of the Y. W. C. A., Commonwealth College, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and other institutions. The Young Communist League is



One of the many typical visual education charts

making wide use of a special chart on its principles and structure. Moreover, the Y. C. L. is using many other Visual Education Charts. Listen to this organizational letter from Francis Franklin, educational director, to branches of the Y. C. L.:

"At a recent discussion in the National Board on education, we decided that the Visual Lecture Charts, described in the enclosed catalog, are much more in keeping with the educational policy of the League than the old mimeographed outlines. Therefore, we are urging you to make the fullest possible use of these charts."

Three charts on Communist Party structure and principles are also being prepared at present in collaboration with the National Office of the C. P. They should be ready in a few weeks.

Other charts being worked out included one on unemployment and re-

lief, with the editorial collaboration of Ralph Hertzler Jr., Unemployment Director of the C. I. O., and David Lasser of the Workers Alliance. Also, charts on the coming elections are being planned for a number of States in collaboration with Labor's Non-Partisan League. The records of local candidates of the various parties and how they voted on the important bills will be a feature of the election charts, together with pictures of conditions in the state.

The charts deal with a vast number of subjects, from such basic theoretical questions as *Marxist Political Economy*, to current problems such as the Japanese boycott and anti-Semitism. There are many charts on Labor Unionism, American Monopolies, the Agricultural Crisis, the Cooperative Movement, Collective Security, American History, Housing, the Negro Question, Social Security and scores of other

subjects.

With these charts organizations can set up speakers' bureaus and rental libraries. They can be used for outdoor meetings with telling effect. My authority on this last statement is Peter V. Cacchiione, Kings County Chairman of the Communist Party, who told us while looking at the Visual Education display at the 10th Convention, that he will use charts extensively in the coming election campaign.

Such unanimous endorsement from labor, cultural, fraternal and political groups must be based on something solid by way of achievement. With summer coming on these large 50x44 inch charts seem ideal for the light fare required in camps and lodges, in city and country meetings. Prices run from one dollar per chart to 75 cents per chart for a batch of four or more. The wise thing to do is to send for a free illustrated catalog immediately and look over the material, which includes posters, film-strips, syndicated features and other educational matter.

CURRENT MAGAZINES

By Martin McCall

The contents of the current issue of *Science and Society*, a Marxian Quarterly (Summer, 1938), cover a great scope of material and is immensely readable. The second number of *The Modern Quarterly*, a publication from London, England, of the same sort and purpose, is also available at this time.

The usual specialists' field of the "pure" sciences receives predominant position in *Science and Society* and predominant space in *The Modern Quarterly*. The former features Henry E. Sigerist's clear, deeply-felt appeal ("Science and Democracy") to scientists to cooperate in the solution of social problems. Sigerist's contribution, which was read in Dec. 1937 before a national assembly of scientists, demands a necessary change in methods of teaching which produce specialists: the sciences must be approached not only technically but historically, philosophically and sociologically.

In the *Modern Quarterly*, V. Gordon Childe ("The Oriental Background of European Science") delivers an insight into the relation of mathematics to economic and social needs. Ignorance of cuneiform and hieroglyphic texts have caused an exaggerated idea of the Greek contribution to mathematics, Childe maintains, and has given a

distorted idea of the very nature of the science.

The same issue gives considerable space to L. Susan Stebbing's "Creed of a Dialectical Materialist," a scalpel-like analysis of what the author considers the fatal abstractness of Professor H. Levy's recent "A Philosophy for a Modern Man." Also in the same issue, Paul Dienes' "On the Crisis in Mathematics" is new, but definitely specialists' material.

Highlights in *Science and Society* include Georges Friedmann's "Revolt Against Formalism in the Soviet Union," which traces the history of the present widespread reaction against forms of art which have undergone a tradition of shaping in Western Europe; but the author also analyzes a dangerous opposite tendency toward mediocre, academic conformity.

Roy Pascal writes lucidly on "Martin Luther and his Times," holding that although Luther was rooted in his times (his work was made possible by his times), he was a heroic personality. Luther was a symbol of liberation from outworn forms, the organizer of the ideology of a new period in world history.

Maurice Dobb's "Note on Some Aspects of the Economic Theory of Marx" considers Marx's analysis of certain more technical

Films of All Countries

Film Festival to Show Best Foreign Pictures Of Last Ten Years

The First International Film Festival ever held in this country will begin July 1 at the 5th Avenue Playhouse, and continue until the end of August.

The festival will feature the best films to come from foreign countries during the last ten years. The largest entrant for honors is the United States, which will be represented by ten films, among them "They Won't Forget," "The Informer," and several Walt Disney animated cartoons.

The Soviet Union and France come next with six films from each country to be shown. Among the Soviet entries will be "Chapayev," "Potemkin," and "Road to Life," all widely acclaimed masterpieces of the cinema. Among the French films will be three Rene Clair pictures including the famous "Sous Les Toits De Paris." Two other widely acclaimed French pictures