

PEN PUNCHES BY THE LOCALS

LOCAL NO. 27, TORONTO, RESOLUTION.

Whereas, The International Social Democratic Parties, through their Annual International Congresses, have from time to time declared against wars, recognizing that modern wars have an economic basis, and are an inevitable outcome of the clashing interests of the capitalist class of the different countries; and,

Whereas, The working class of no nation has any quarrel with the working class of any other nation, and if in control of the Government would always work for peace and harmony (as witness the proletariat of Russia at the present time); and,

Whereas, The people of Canada were not consulted regarding the secret diplomatic entanglements which preceded and provoked the present ghastly slaughter; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this local go on record as being emphatically opposed to conscription or to any form of compulsory service; and be it further

Resolved, that we call upon the Government to prove their claim to being a democratic government, embodying "government by the people for the people," by initiating a referendum vote upon the subject of conscription, before attempting to enact same.

And we direct that copies of this resolution be sent to the Hon. Sir R. L. Borden, Premier of Canada, and to Sir E. Kemp, the member for this riding, and to the press.

I remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,
CHARLES M. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

B. C. PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE TAKES ACTION AGAINST CONSCRIPTION.

May 27th.

Sir Robert Borden, Ottawa.

The Social Democratic Party of British Columbia unhesitatingly pronounce against the policy of territorial acquisition as a precursor of future wars and suffering. The only justification for the workers' entry in the present conflict is to prevent a militarism from being imposed upon them from without. If your Government intend to introduce a military despotism in Canada, we believe it our imperative duty to warn the wage-earners to use every legitimate means to crush the danger now fast developing at home.

Harry Barnard, Member for Victoria, Ottawa.

Have wired Sir Robert Borden the position our party will take in this province if conscription is forced upon it without a referendum. We call upon you to vote against this measure if introduced or accept full responsibility for the crisis which this act will provoke.

The Vancouver comrades wired Borden, Laurier, and Stevens, their member, and held overflow meetings at Labor Hall, where a small minority tried to give them a little trouble. However, arrangements were made for a parade, which, no doubt, you have read of in Eastern despatches.

In this city there was no element in evidence to take the initiative in the matter, so we held an open Executive meeting and invited a number of these we knew here to be opposed to conscription. Having committed the party here to opposition of militarism through the telegram to Borden, we suggested that they might unite with us on this one question being numerically weak in

numbers and unable to fight this issue unless supported by all those opposed to the measure.

At first there was an indication that the action adopted by the Socialist Party of Canada might prevail, that of individual action. After showing how easy it was to break this down bit by bit and the only hope of winning out was a bold front, the following resolution was put and carried and made the basis of approach to the Trades and Labor Council of this city, who, we interviewed at their next meeting.

"We, the members of Social Democratic Party Local No. 9, of Victoria, and others, assembled, declare, in view of the attempt of the Borden Government to conscript the already depleted manpower of Canada, after giving assurance to Organized Labor that such means would not be taken to secure recruits for the army, hereby resolve we will not submit to military registration.

"We also believe, in order that the electorate may express its opinion, a referendum should be taken upon this question."

Our committee will report back Wednesday evening, June 6th, as to the position the trades unionists will take, and another committee will also report upon the results of its conferences with the Quaker and Bible student element, who are represented in large numbers here.

In spite of the apparent defeat of the conscription bill at this meeting, we feel that effective and immediate organization must be secured not only as a safeguard against a possible reintroduction, but to forward a movement to support the findings and recommendations of an international congress which cannot be long delayed.

Now for the general situation here, with a province thoroughly organized with various patriotic societies and auxiliaries, it is next to impossible to hold public meetings and obtain the results that would come from a sympathetic community. Our only hope at present is to get into the homes. The local papers here publish my telegram to Borden, but would not give us any publicity on your manifesto. In order to clear up a general misunderstanding which exists as a result of the workings of the old Socialist Party of Canada here we want the manifesto into every working home and also a clear-cut, clean declaration of where we stand in this conflict that we may renew these impressions and create the confidence which the newspapers here are trying to destroy, between ourselves and the workers. I have also a copy of the letter Arthur Ponsouby, M.P., against a continuance of the war. It is a most remarkable document and of great value to us at the present moment. Our plan is a 15,000 edition of a four-sheet newspaper distributed simultaneously here and Vancouver. If we can see our way clear to put this through, it is pretty well certain we shall never have another chance from the military authorities.

Will write you later and believe when you get a copy you will quickly realize its value in reaching those outside of our movement.

P. R. SMITH, Sec.

Lindsay, Ont.

Conscription:—At a recent meeting of Lindsay Branch of the Social Democratic Party the following resolutions were passed unanimously.

Resolved—That while we believe it to be the duty of every free citizen to defend the democratic principles of self-government in Canada and also to respect the just rights of minorities, we

very much regret the action of the present administration at Ottawa, in curtailing the liberty of responsible citizens, by depriving them of their choice of literature, in expelling from the Canadian mails a number of useful monthly magazines that are adverse to capitalistic exploitation; notably "Pearson's Monthly" and the St. Louis Melting Pot.

We heartily disapprove of this sample of German mis-government, which, if continued, we have no doubt will lead to the downfall of the Ottawa combination.

Resolved—That we endorse the old Duke of Wellington's exposure of conscription as applied to the British army, when he declared "It is quite clear that the British regular army cannot be raised by conscription or ballot."

We think it unwise to compel, by Act of Parliament, the working man, as well as the so-called "slackers" of the gentlemen's sons of leisure, into the ranks of legalized killers of their kind, as contrary to the much quoted teachings of Christ—that most eminent socialistic opponent of ancient capitalistic authority, and as quite opposed to the spiritual ethics of our coming civilization.

Resolved—That, while we denounce "war" as a crime against humanity, we think it the duty of every citizen, regardless of color, creed or politics, to defend liberty and democracy in free thought, free speech and self-government; to be prepared to volunteer our services in their defence.

Resolved—That we condemn any and every form of Prussianism, preferring instead the referendum of all important measures to the open vote of all the people concerned, and that we hereby endorse the manifesto issued by the Toronto Branch of the Social Democratic Party of Canada under date of May 22, 1917.

W. A. GOODWIN,
Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

F. G. TIPPING'S LECTURE TOUR.

The announcement from our headquarters at Toronto in the last issue of the Canadian Forward, that a propaganda tour through Manitoba and Saskatchewan is being arranged, pleased Winnipeg comrades in more than one way.

In the first place, it is an indication that the party is at last waking up after a long period of excusable inactivity and is starting in the right direction—in educational propaganda; this is, after all, the real mission of the party at this stage of its development.

We are also particularly gratified in the excellent choice the Dominion Executive made in asking Comrade F. G. Tipping to undertake this work in the Prairie Provinces. As a forceful speaker, thoroughly versed in Marxian economics and the whole philosophy of Socialism, combined with an exceptional ability to present this philosophy to the masses, Comrade Tipping is second to none among the Reds in Canada. Comrade Tipping has been one of the most active workers in the party since its inception, always in the forefront, restlessly agitating the workers to get ready for the approaching social revolution. If a few men of his mettle were kept going up and down the vast stretches of Canada—this paradise to the capitalist class would soon be in the possession of the toilers. And we have no doubt that this could be done if our locals would get busy and stir themselves up out of a long slumber. Communicate with Comrade Tipping at once, start to arrange for the meetings, leave no stone unturned to make them a success. Socialists in towns having no organization yet, should not fail to take this opportunity to get Fred Tipping down; he surely will make things lively wherever he goes. Let this be a

Red summer for the Prairie Provinces! Write to the Dominion Executive or direct to Comrade F. G. Tipping, 985 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg.

J. PENNER,

Secretary, English Local, Winnipeg.

Victoria Telegram.

Perfecting permanent organization. Issuing fifteen thousand circular letters to send through mail in British Columbia.

P. R. SMITH.

Port Arthur, Ont., June 4, 1917.

Dear Editor:—Both sides were given a fair hearing at the citizens' mass meeting, which taxed the capacity of the large and magnificent auditorium of the Finnish Labor Temple.

Comrade H. Barker was chairman, and he stated in his opening remarks that after the anti-conscription speakers were through any one who wished to speak in favor of the measure would have a fair hearing if they would be so good as to give the speaker against the measure such fairness.

The first speaker called upon was Comrade A. E. Kettridge, who introduced a resolution against, which consisted of the S. D. P. of C. manifesto, omitting the last paragraph. Comrade W. N. Welsh seconded the resolution and Comrade H. Bryan supported it. After the three speakers had finished their speeches, the chairman invited speakers from the other side. Mr. Chas. Cattamach came forward and moved an amendment to the effect that the meeting support the Government. Pte. Neil Campbell rose and seconded this amendment, and it was supported by Messrs. F. B. Allen and A. E. Cole.

Comrade Checkley then rose to support Comrade Kettridge's motion, which finished the speaking.

Comrade Barker then put the question to the house, and out of an audience of over 1,400 people, the amendment only received 28 supporters, and when Comrade Kettridge's motion was put the entire audience voted solidly for it.

There were hundreds of citizens who wished to attend the meeting, but were unable to gain admittance to the then already overcrowded auditorium.

Some day we are going to have a brilliant re-organizing in this place and I think we will then be able to go ahead strong.

Yours for the revolution,
A. E. KETTRIDGE.

Port Arthur, Ont., June 5, 1917.

Dear Editor,—

I am enclosing you a copy of resolution carried by a tremendous majority at a meeting at the Labor Temple Bay, Sunday night, June 3rd. A huge audience was in attendance and the capitalist system was attacked by your humble A. E. Kettridge, W. N. Welsh, and F. A. Bryen. Tremendous applause greeted the carrying of the resolution. Only a few returned soldiers and tool-to-fights voted against it; any attempt of interruptions were howled down by the audience. This was certainly the greatest meeting ever held in Port Arthur, and the gospel is spreading.

Go to it. We are determined to organize as never before.

Yours for revolution,
HERBERT BARKER

Department of the Secretary of State,
Ottawa, June 8th, 1917.

Sir,—

With reference to your letter of the 20th March last addressed to the Minister of Justice, in behalf of one John Ness, now confined in the Toronto jail, I am commanded to inform you that His Excellency the Governor-General does not consider this case to be one for interference.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS MULVEY,
Under-Secretary of State.