

Workers of B. C. Organize a New Labor Party.

The following is the B.C. Federationist's report of the organization of the new labor party recently launched by a convention attended by delegates from all parts of the province. The new party is to be known in B.C. as the Federated Labor Party.

Labor's political party was formed last Saturday, following the close of the eighth annual convention of the B.C.F. of L., and organization proceeded to the point where officers were elected, district vice-presidents named and all that possibly could be done at the beginning was done. The name selected was the "Federated Labor Party," and that it will gather round it not only all members of organized labor, but unorganized, and draw from the ranks of the old parties, is a foregone conclusion. In fact, at the conference officers of both of the old parties stepped out and announced their allegiance to the working class party.

In the course of the conference there were many excellent speeches, among them one by James H. Hawthornthwaite, Labor's only representative in the Provincial Legislature.

That the new political party's influence is already being felt is indicated by the activities of Conservative and Liberal leaders. These fear the disorganization of their ranks which are made up largely of the working class. The big majority of voters belong to the working class, and they have been used so long and given the worst of it so long by both parties, that they welcome the opportunity offered by a party of their own—the Federated Labor Party.

So the party, although but a few days old, has grown tremendously already, and both men and women are adding their names to the membership rolls. Every district in the province will have its own organization, it being made clear at the conference that the utmost autonomy must be given to locals who know their own needs best and how to conduct affairs to the best advantage in their particular localities.

The conference was marked for its enthusiasm and determination.

The Platform Adopted.

1. That this organization be known as the Federated Labor Party. (Concurred in.)
2. That the Federated Labor Party is organized for the purpose of securing industrial legislation, and the collective ownership and democratic operation of the measured wealth production. (Concurred in.)
3. That the membership fee be fixed at \$1 per year. That 50 cents of the annual membership fee be forwarded to the treasurer of the central committee for the purpose of defraying the expenses of general organization work. (Concurred in.)
4. That a president, twelve vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer be elected until a convention is held.
5. That the workers of each electoral district proceed forthwith to elect committees, for the purpose of carrying out the objects of this organization. (Concurred in.)
6. That a membership roll be opened in each electoral district, and all persons be invited to sign who are willing to and endorse the objects of this organization. (Concurred in.)
7. That the central executive committee shall be comprised of the president, secretary, treasurer and two vice-presidents resident in Van-

couver and vicinity. (Concurred in.)

The B.C. Federationist gives the new body the following enthusiastic send-off under the caption:

Vigorous Move in the Right Direction.

Many a time and oft have Labor parties been launched, and many a time have they achieved nothing more consequential than dying. Sometimes they have effected their demise by being absorbed or swallowed up by the older and stronger parties of capitalism, and upon other occasions they have removed themselves from the stage of publicity by just plain death. Instances are not unknown wherein alleged Labor parties have maintained a sort of ghostly perpetuity long after they had ceased to express any of the ordinary and duly recognized symptoms of a bona fide existence. While this sort of ghostly perpetuity may not be exactly equivalent to actual demise, it at least bears a very close similarity to that condition which is sometimes referred to as innocuous desuetude, a stage of harmless dry rot that frequently precedes final dissolution.

The fate of so many Labor parties of the past has no doubt been at least largely due to their premature arrival upon the scene of events. Until capitalist development had reached a stage making their appearance absolutely necessary to further the cause of human progress, but the overthrow of the ruling class and thus clearing the ground for a better civilization, such movements would be premature and little better than flashes in the pan, though, perchance, being prophetic indications of what was eventually to come. But the wheel of evil fortune to the ruling class has made rapid turns within the past few years. Swiftly has come the culmination of its long and vicious regime of plunder and rapine. That regime is even now going out in a perfect blaze of blood and murder glory, that may be likened unto a complete self-renunciation by self-immolation upon the altar of suicidal madness. And by the same token the hour for human liberty has struck. The doom of slavery is at hand. The dawn of Labor's day is breaking, through the dark clouds of tyranny and oppression that have hung for centuries over the toiling slaves throughout ruling class civilization. The fog of ignorance and superstition is being dissipated from the minds of the men and women of labor, and a new light has come unto them. A new song is upon their lips and a new spirit stirs them to action. The blood now courses through their veins with new life, and they are experiencing thrills of joy and hope that were unknown to them before the rainbow of promise appeared upon the Russian horizon above the red clouds of ruling class savagery and bloody war. And that is why the Federated Labor Party is possible now. And that is why revolutionary action upon the part of the workers of all lands is not only now possible, but inevitable.

REMOVE THE CAUSE.

"We shall have utterly failed unless we demand to know the cause of this war and make it clear that we don't want any more war. If we don't want any more war we can only attain to that ideal by removing the cause of all war."—Jas. Winstone, President South Wales Miners' Federation.

MACDONALD EDITOR.

J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., has been appointed editor of the Socialist Review, and it will be changed from a quarterly to a monthly magazine.

WAR TIME, AND AFTER.

"The question with us now is what is Labor going to do to meet the conditions that will arise during the rest of war time and after the war."—Allan Studholme, M.P.P.

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- Germs of Mind in Plants.** By R. H. France. A remarkable work proving that "mind" is not limited to man or even to animals, but is found in plants also. Illustrated. 50 cents.
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