

# The S. P. of C. and the Third International

**I**N dealing with the S. P. of C. and affiliation with the Third International, Comrade Kaplan is far from exhausting the subject as to affiliation. The three which he deals with are of no importance, and could not justify rejection of the terms imposed. However, the entire question is joined, like all working class questions; strikes, new unionism, etc., with the universal question of class appropriation, and whether we accept or reject the terms of the Communist International we will find our action will be used by master class hirelings to master class purposes. The S. P. of C. however, has never wavered in its faith of Russia since the March revolution; and come what will, no apology is required of our past.

We achieved this singular distinction by looking upon the world as it really is, and not as we would like it to be, and if we make our choice now, by the same rule, we can:

"Let the Dervish flout,  
Of our base metal may be filed a key  
That shall unlock the door he howls without."

Let us take the third point of Comrade Kaplan's article:

"The joining of the Third International would involve submission to dictation from Moscow as to tactics to be adopted locally, under peculiar local conditions, which only local knowledge and observation could properly determine or dictate."

This is worth discussing; but our comrade deliberately ignores the issue on the plea that certain fundamental tactics "are too well known to need detailing here," which is precisely what they do need. A detailing and examination of these tactics must be undertaken, together with an examination of our position.

In the "Clarion," issue of January 1st, the conditions for joining the Third International are laid down. These conditions are "the most precise," and they are laid down for the purpose of safeguarding the new International against the fate of the old. In reply to a direct question from the British Independent Labor Party, the E. C. of the Communist International stated that those parties wishing to join must adhere to, and govern their actions by the eighteen points laid down. So that we must take that fact into consideration when we are discussing the terms for admittance. They are precisely as they appear in the eighteen points. None of these points come under the exemptions suggested by local conditions, as the E. C. says in its reply to the I. L. P.

"The program of Communism is the formulation of the general conditions for the development of the world revolution in capitalist countries."

It is by this program,—these eighteen points, we are bound if we apply for admittance. The first question for us to decide then is: How far do these eighteen points coincide with our programme and manifesto; and to what extent are we prepared to change, or modify these declarations, should it be necessary? Our activities to date have been governed by the principles of what has become generally known as the Marxian philosophy. Our understanding of this has led us to maintain a strictly educational program. We have assumed the position that the development of capitalism would engender revolutions; and that an understanding of society, economic and historic, would secure the working class against precipitate and futile action. We believed that an understanding of the forces which mould society, was the surest way to preserve society and eradicate those evils peculiar to slave systems. And to the furthering of this understanding we directed all our energy.

That this programme has been of some value is evidenced in the fact that we were not swept into either of the two maelstroms which engulfed almost every Socialist party in existence,—the patriotic and the pacifist,—against which the Third International rails so strongly. Also that the demands in the terms we are discussing, regarding the removal of reformers and their ilk, have been long anticipated by our party. We have no "Right, Left and Centre," groups to contend with.

In accepting the eighteen points we would have to change this position, and indulge in all manner of tactics which heretofore we have looked upon as, to say the least, futile.

Take the first point: "The daily propaganda must bear a truly communist character." We are not informed what this is, but we are told we must "denounce not only the bourgeoisie, but its assistants, the reformers of all shades and color." All very well; but to what end? And how far does mere denunciation lead to conviction?

In Vancouver during the late Provincial election, and in any other centre we care to examine, we find men actually convicted of the grossest public dishonesty, and roundly denounced, yet when the votes are counted, are near the top of the poll. Denunciation rarely convinces, and we have always given it a subordinate place in our propaganda, though it has its uses, and we don't overlook them.

The second point calls upon us "to remove systematically and regularly from all responsible posts in the Labor movement, (party organizations, edit-

or's office, labor unions, parliamentary faction, co-operatives, municipalities, etc.), all reformists and partisans of the centre, and to replace them by Communists, without troubling about the facts that in the beginning it might be necessary to replace experienced men by rank and file workmen."

Here we come into direct conflict with our former position. Apart from its ultimate utility, which is doubtful, such activity would immediately involve us in a series of bitter struggles that would hamper and in the end nullify our educational work, which we believe is of the utmost importance. Furthermore, it would use up all the precious time and energy, at present limited enough, for the work we are engaged in.

Turning to point eight we are again brought into conflict with our principles. The emancipation of the wage slave from his bondage is our aim, and colonial liberation movements are just as foolish and quite as futile as "international arbitration," which we are called upon to "systematically demonstrate to the workmen," is folly without an overthrow of capitalism. I cannot see how colonies can be liberated, and to what advantage, if capitalism still rules. Surely the workers of Russia realize that they could hardly have been treated worse under a colonial government than they were under the Czar. And so far as my own experience goes, capitalism is the only evil, neither to be augmented or diminished by monarchial, republican, imperial or colonial government. These are but the forms of ruling class governments; they are purely ruling class concerns; they are of infinitely less importance than, for instance, international disarmament, and certainly no concern of a class conscious slave.

That will be enough for the present, but let it be clearly understood that I do not consider rejection of these terms implies any disagreement with the methods and purposes of the Bolsheviks. So far as any assistance we can give to them is concerned, we will contribute a hundredfold to their security by informing the working class of the Marxian philosophy in contrast to the feeble support our joining the International and its manifold activities, would occasion.

According to the Theses in the "Clarion," Jan. 1st, many elements of thought joined the Third International after its first congress, when no terms for admittance were required. No doubt they had some influence in the second congress, and I have no doubt that the third congress will see a change in the terms and program. But in the meanwhile, let us continue to do business, not on our desires, but on working class needs.

J. HARRINGTON.

## DECISION IN UNITED STATES COURT.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The United States Supreme Court today handed down its first extensive interpretation of sections of the Clayton Act aimed to protect trade unions from court injunctions. The decision was unfavorable to labor.

In dissenting from the majority opinion, Justice Brandeis said the decision renders futile an effort continued more than 20 years to place employers and employed on an equal basis before the law.

## ANTI-STRIKE BILL PASSES THE SENATE

Washington, December 16.—The Senate passed the Poindexter bill making strikes which interfere with interstate commerce crimes.

The Poindexter bill makes violation a felony punishable by a fine of \$10,000, or 10 years' imprisonment.

The bill is aimed against railroad strikes, prohibiting the combination "of any parties" to hinder interstate commerce.

## REED WANTS TO KNOW WHY BIG SUM WAS SPENT.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Forty millions of the one hundred and fifty millions of dollars appropriated by Congress for European relief was spent "to keep the Polish army in the field," Senator Reed, Democrat, of Missouri, today declared in the Senate during an economy discussion. Senator Reed said he had documents in his office to support his statement and he promised to discuss them later.

Congress, Mr. Reed said, gave the \$150,000,000 into the hands of "a single gentleman," whom the Missouri Senator did not name.

"This gentleman, with unblushing effrontery," the Senator continued, "tells us in a report that he spent \$40,000,000 for the support of the Polish army which was engaged in a war we never authorized and with a nation with which we were at profound peace."

Senators Borah, Brandegee and others asked for further information regarding the expenditures and Senator Reed said that his documentary matter stated the \$40,000,000 was spent to keep the Polish army in the field. His information, he added, did not disclose whether the money was given to the commander of the Polish forces or spent in feeding the civil population.

## SMOKER-VANCOUVER February 11th

### BENEFIT OF CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND

Vancouver Local No. 1 is going to hold a Smoking Concert in the Headquarters, 401 Pender Street East, on Friday evening, February 11th. The committee who are in charge of the arrangements intend to make the affair an attractive and memorable occasion. An orchestra will be in attendance, also a fine array of talent, vocal and otherwise. Nut brown ale and proletarian sandwiches will be served, but everyone must supply their own smoking. The tickets will be on sale two weeks before the date of the concert, and the price will be **FIFTY CENTS.**

Let's go!