

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

**Editor's Note.**—The D. E. C. decided at last meeting to limit this discussion to one page each issue to allow more space for regular articles and propaganda matter. Correspondents will please note and present their arguments as briefly as possible.

## Position of Local Equity No. 87 of the Socialist Party of Canada on the Question of Joining with the Third International.

**V**IEWING history for the past few years, we see capital competing for more lucrative fields of exploitation, and by so doing are despoiling the workers.

Capital functioning through international groups finds itself antagonistic towards each group in competing for world markets. During these struggles there are conflicts of the bloodiest nature being waged, in which the working class is called upon to pitch themselves one against the other.

The working class through their organizations are menacing the powers held by capital, by competing for control of the political and industrial machinery of State. Therefore the interest of the working class should be directed towards an international organization for greater efficiency by concentration of forces. As capital functions in group competition, labor to excel must abandon groups for one central organization.

Therefore in stating our position in favor of joining with the Third International, we believe that the Third International is a thorough revolutionary international based upon the Marxian philosophy of the class struggle.

And though the formation contain diverse thoughts, judging from the past enunciations of some already included—and which is somewhat out of harmony with our own way of thinking—we recognize that an international cannot be governed on quite as narrow limits as to identity of thoughts and actions as would a group bounded within a much smaller territory. The "Theses" we believe contains the necessary rigidity as well as the correct procedure applicable to conditions as at present obtaining, to insure against losing control to "freaks" or elements seeking to destroy it, as well as it being a powerful necessary instrument in the class struggle on the side of the proletariat.

And this move we believe will hasten the day of emancipation. For united effort by the workers would shorten the duration of the struggle and mitigate its inherent tendency to violence. We of local Equity No. 87, of the Socialist Party of Canada, are unanimously in favor of joining with the Third International of Moscow and endorse without exception all points in the "Theses."

(Signed) H. H. HANSON,  
Secretary.

## ON THE SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONALISM

As a result, chiefly, of somewhat ill-conceived statements and observations, certain misconceptions have arisen in the minds of many workers relevant to the international character of capitalism, and the possibilities of a world-wide working class movement to combat it.

No doubt, this misconception was largely due to the fact that groups within the capitalist class, which in their economic and historic development had engendered clearly defined antagonisms, which were responsible for the party form of government, sinking their differences in times of war and during the sporadic attempts of the workers to maintain their standard of living.

This was strengthened by the Entente between France, Russia, and Great Britain on the one side and the countries within Central Europe on the other, all of these countries having in their turn developed definite and deep-rooted national prejudices. And, later still, at the close of the war of 1914-18, when the League of Nations occupied the attention of most people, it was thought that here indeed was an international oligarchy or parliament for the peaceful administration of the affairs of capitalism.

But, with the division of the boodle between the victorious allies, when the partitioning of the

enemy's territory was considered, the parliament of the world dissolved right there. What we had overlooked was the essentially competitive character of capitalism, and forgetting that the differences in the fertility of soils, the variety of mineral wealth in the sub-soils of different countries, together with the distribution of land and sea between certain peoples, determines why and where the interests of national groups of capitalists must clash.

Why are the chief military and naval powers in the world today, while outwardly appearing friendly, inwardly increasing as rapidly as possible these two arms of their respective States? Says Baron Kaneko, Japanese statesman, Privy Councillor, and author: "All nations are looking for new markets for their industries, and the only market now remaining which can be exploited with benefit is the continent of Asia."

The generalization which I have stated above is applicable to this statement of his royal nibs. For Asia abounds with wealth as yet scarcely scraped, and with slaves using the most primitive methods to wealth production, and for more than a generation the advance agents of capitalism, church missionaries, have been pouring into China, and elsewhere on this continent, preparing the psychology of its people for a change of habits and customs, while taking a general survey of the chief deposits of natural wealth.

Can you imagine national groups of capitalists amicably agreeing to divide this wealth equally between them; if so, why the recruiting campaigns for armies and navies? A world state under capitalism governed by capitalists is thinkable to tonsorial—beg pardon, literary artists like H. G. Wells, not to materialists who know that the relationship between nations can never be permanent as long as capitalism lasts. Indeed the history of the past few years proves conclusively, to my mind, that capitalism and internationalism can not mix—even though "capital" (money!) is international. For a system of production for profit, and a class competing for a place in a world market, must develop a spirit as ferocious as that of the jungle when the material interests of this class are at stake.

Furthermore, if a union between the capitalists of the world is impossible, an international labor movement is equally so. Take the workers in the United States coalfields and those of England and Wales—it would seem on the surface the interests of these workers in the same industry was common—can you imagine an agreement between these workers so binding that when the British miners are dickering for a minimum wage the American miner will cease production? The existence of the American miner depends on his ability to produce coal as cheap, or cheaper, for a European market as will the miners of Britain. And, again, why did the Triple Alliance of Britain fail to function when put to the test in support of the Miners' Federation?

With the American workers, tradition, habit, and custom will always interfere with any movement for united action with the workers of any other country. But the traditions, customs, and habits of the British working class are the same (largely so), yet this interfered with the smooth running machine of the Triple Alliance. How so? They are servile—the atmosphere of feudalism still surrounds them they accept the decisions of their "superiors," and their leaders are looked upon and accepted as such. Moreover this is the common trait inherited by the slave class of every country on earth. The fact—if it is such—that men like Thomas, Clynes, and Hodge deliberately sold out their interest in the working class for five million dollars, can be set aside as of no importance in this argument. What I have endeavored to prove is the fact that "tradition does sit like a mountain on the brains" of the working class; that habit and custom control their actions. For more than a generation the British workers have been subjected to a more intense form of propaganda, more completely organized than the workers of any other country, yet on the question of a "minimum wage" the organization, the labor of years, cracked up in a test of solidarity. Like the workers of the world,

the Britisher has lived largely on "belief"—simply transferring the belief of their fathers in a Jesus Christ to a belief in labor skates, the religion of Christianity to nationalization, and if their belief is shattered the fiasco is not complete. Neither is the lesson without value to the workers of other countries who may learn now that solidarity in one country is conditional, and between the workers of all countries (as long as this system lasts) is hopeless.

But the future, comrades, is full of promise, brimful of hope, the army of invasion in Central Europe is the allied bailiff seeking to collect rent from a financial bankrupt; each day the debt mounts higher and the chance of collecting grows less. Meanwhile trade in this part of the world becomes less and less profitable and the armies of unemployed grow larger. Warships are being rushed to completion and humanity will once more be engaged in a bloody struggle to open a new market for some and close it against others. If the last war rocked capitalism to its base, this one should bring the whole works around their ears. Allons! Allons! R. K.

After reading the articles for and against affiliation by the S. P. of C., and after listening closely and taking an active part in the discussions carried on by Local Vancouver, No. 1, I am forced to conclude that the viewpoint of those in favor of affiliation is determined more by enthusiasm for a Cause, rather than a close study and correct appreciation of existing conditions.

The support which has been given to our Russian comrades, and to which the recent and successful tour of Isaac McBride bears eloquent testimony, can only, in my opinion, be made stronger by the extension of that educational work which the S. P. of C. has so long been engaged in.

Participation in the official activities of the organized labor movement, municipal politics, bourgeois liberation movements, would undoubtedly tend to confuse the presentation of the doctrine of the Class Struggle, which the serious nature of the present age demands should be kept clear and distinct. To do this, neither the sanction of Moscow nor a change of name is necessary. The effective work carried on by the Party is made possible by the voluntary effort of its members, and it is my experience that the "new movement enthusiasts" are not shining examples of that "self-imposed discipline" to which they refer so much these days.

The duties involved and the efforts demanded by the terms of affiliation are utterly beyond our present strength and influence. And until the terms are modified to suit matter of fact wage plugs possessing the ability to compute values, and not martyrs with Christ-like attributes, I submit in all earnestness, that the S. P. of C. can do no better than to keep on with its present task of explaining to the working class the true character of capitalist society.

SID. EARP.

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