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COMMUNIST PARTY AND BRITISH LABOR

Labor Executive Will Not Recognize Third International.

LONDON, England.—It has been said that it takes all sorts to make a world. The responsible leaders of the British Labor party are, therefore, entitled to gather what consolation they can in the midst of their difficulties from the fact that the same observation applies with equal force to their own movement, and that it takes all sorts to make a party.

In the past the Labor party has shared the fate of all new movements in having to pacify the many and varied conflicting elements within its ranks, but at no time have its difficulties been so pronounced as at present, and particularly when it is looking forward so eagerly—and at one time so cheerfully—to the prospects of forming the next Government. Indeed, this view of optimism was easily justified, and within the range of practical politics a year or so ago, when Labor candidates swept the constituencies in the municipal elections.

Labor's Good Fight.
 If Labor failed to repeat the performance at the elections recently held, they nevertheless put up a better fight than was generally credited to their account, as a careful analysis of the figures, together with the circumstances of the situation, plainly reveal. Many of the Labor defeats were due entirely to the fact that the old historic parties agreed to sink their differences in a common effort to keep the Labor candidate out.

In former occasions Labor has frequently been successful in consequence of having obtained more votes than either of its opponents, Liberal or Conservative, in a three-cornered contest. But whenever Labor has accomplished that feat, it could almost safely be reckoned that the next time of asking would reveal two parties only—a coalition under some such innocent title as Ratepayers' Association versus Labor. Yes, and occasionally—only occasionally—a third nominee, run by some disgruntled and progressing revolutionary Socialist body "disgusted with the bourgeois tactics of the Labor politicians."

Fewer Three-Cornered Contests.
 In the elections which took place on November 1, there were very considerably less three-cornered contests than in any previous election. To the student of political development inside the movement the failure to capture a majority of seats in districts from which so many of his enemy's camp have been forced to march under the one banner he regards as a necessary and inevitable stage in the party's evolution. Consolation he gathers from the belief that the old historic parties can never return to the old conditions. A home divided would simply allow the Labor nominee a walk-over.

That there is more than an element of truth in this philosophy is borne out strongly by the recent parliamentary election where Labor has been shown to have a following. A noticeable and highly significant case in point is the election now being conducted in the Wrekin division, where the Labor nominee, Mr. Charles Duncan, is being opposed by a candidate running under the auspices of a party which came into existence in direct and avowed opposition to the Prime Minister. Incidentally, it may be

noted that Mr. Duncan throughout the war strenuously supported Mr. Lloyd George in his efforts for victory, and in common with others of the Labor party "fell from grace" in the minds of the extremists.

Reasons For Failure.
 Having stated so much on behalf of the party, let us examine why the Labor nominee failed to record that same headway that were the elections, for it is beyond question that the party was unable to attract fresh supporters in any considerable numbers. The principal reason can be fairly laid to the credit of the industrialists for their direct action propaganda, culminating, of course, with the miners' strike, which was actually in operation on the polling day. Here, again, it is a matter of surprise that, with tens of thousands of families feeling the pinch in consequence of the difficulty in obtaining coal, and that only at a price constantly on the increase, there was not a decided slump in the fortunes of the party. Domestic differences, too, are responsible for the slack time. The constituent bodies that form the Labor Party are actively discussing within their own ranks the advisability or otherwise of declaring for the Third International.

Rejoice Third International.
 As readers of the Canadian Labor Press are aware, the Labor Party, the larger body, has declared in no uncertain manner against Moscow and all that it stands for, and your correspondent commenting at the time that the decision would place some of the affiliated organizations in a peculiar and anomalous position. The executive of the Labor Party went further, and it refused to accept the application of the recently formed Communist Party for affiliation on the grounds that the latter were not in keeping with those for which the former stood.

Now there comes the report of a committee of the Independent Labor Party, appointed to redraft the statement, setting out the programme in accordance with the decisions of the annual conference. As a statement of policy the report is disappointing, disjointed and contradictory, and bears the unmistakable impress of much labor having been done in reconciling conflicting trains of thought.

J. Ramsay MacDonald, for many years regarded as the "intellectual giant" of the party, refused to sign the draft, and is supported by quite a number who in the past have exercised influence and prestige in its councils. It is quite a new experience for the Independent Labor Party to be divided within its own ranks. The party has always been favored with a remarkable unanimity and discipline, which it carried into the conference of the larger body, over which, as compared with its numbers, it exercised such tremendous influence in shaping the policy. The principal point of disagreement concerns the use of the general strike weapon to supplement the constitutional methods of labor to come into its own. The matter is yet to be submitted for ratification to the local bodies, the result of which is worth watching, and is indicative of what extent the intellectuals of the movement have moved to the left.—C.S.M.

There was a millionaire who disapproved of foreign missions. In church, when a collection was being taken up for them, he whispered to a neighbor, "I don't like those missions. The collector replied: 'Take something out; it's for the heathen!'"

A frontier is not without O.B.E.'s in his own beautiful country. "It is not enough to do good; one must do it in a good way."—Morley.

RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT

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 Employment Service of Canada.

Measures to combat unemployment are being taken by federal, provincial and municipal governments in co-operation with organizations of employers, employees, returned soldiers, and other interested bodies in no unmistakable manner. While it may not be possible immediately to restore industrial conditions to normal, there is reason to believe that by concentrated effort distress will be relieved and the spread of unemployment checked. In the statement on the subject issued by the Minister of Labor on Christmas Eve, in which the Federal Government's policy was outlined, the principle that unemployment should be dealt with to the utmost possible extent by provision of work rather than by the granting of relief was enunciated. This met with almost universal acceptance. Certainly trade unionists agree that unemployment relief should only be granted after all efforts to provide work have failed.

To meet extreme cases, however, the Federal Government stated that it would participate in out-of-work grants, providing certain conditions were observed. In districts where it was considered necessary, it was suggested that relief organizations should be established by the municipal authorities. Workers in the district to whom employment could not be offered through the nearest office of the Employment Service of Canada, should receive a certificate to this effect, signed by the employment office superintendent, for presentation to the municipal relief officer. The Dominion Government would reimburse municipalities to the extent of one-third of the relief disbursed on this basis.

At the request of the Minister of Labor, the executive committee of the Employment Service Council of Canada convened in Ottawa on Dec. 27, and devoted three days to the consideration of the unemployment problem with a view to arriving at the most efficient method of coping with the situation. The council consists of representatives from Federal and Provincial Governments, the Trades and Labor Congress, Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Association of Canadian Building Industries, returned soldiers, organized agriculture, and other national bodies, and was established by order-in-council in 1918 to advise the Minister of Labor in the administration of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act. The executive were unanimously of the opinion that in provinces where they did not already exist, provincial and local employment service councils should be immediately established to advise provincial and local officials and co-ordinate effort to relieve unemployment by the inauguration of emergency public works and the release of Government contracts for supplies and materials of all kinds, and a recommendation to this effect was made to the minister. Through the secretary of the council the national associations represented were asked to co-operate to the fullest possible extent with the various government bodies and with one another in providing work and organizing adequate machinery for the bettering of conditions.

Already in districts where unemployment has been most serious remedial steps have been taken. Operations on public works have been increased and additions made to staffs where possible. Plans are being made for the immediate commencement of projected works which otherwise would not have been undertaken until later in the year. In private industry, too, improvement has been noted. The principle of reduction in hours rather than reduction in working force has been generally adopted, and there is every indication that through intelligent co-operation of all sections of the community, distress will be relieved and immediate improvement in labor market conditions effected.

The real spirit behind the trades union movement is the spirit of Christianity, the "brotherhood of man."—Tom Moore.

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