

Western Clarion

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VANCOUVER, B. C., MARCH 1, 1921.

QUESTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION.

The question of Third International affiliation and its discussion among our members brings to us many enquiries, much comment, and general evidence of widespread interest. In some of the Party locals the discussion is still proceeding, in some the discussion has reached the conclusion of the eighteen points, while in others it appears to have hardly emerged from the initial stages. Local Vancouver members have exhaustively examined the terms of affiliation clause by clause, reaching the end of the "Theses" at their last meeting. Local Winnipeg No. 3 appear to have concluded their argument as their contribution, published in another column in this issue will show. We hope to be able to publish the views of the minority section of Local Winnipeg on this question, and shall do so if they will send their point of view on the question to us, which they have not yet done. We do not know how far the discussion has proceeded in Victoria and Edmonton. Local Calgary appear to be half way through the "Theses."

The following letter requesting information on the questions stated brings out several points that some members are perhaps unacquainted with, and we shall answer those questions that we are able to deal with in this column without prejudice to the question at issue, leaving the others to our contributors.

Calgary, Alta.,
February 10th, 1921

Editor, Clarion:

Would like information on following points, either editorially or through your contributors.

(1) The number of conditions for affiliation with the Third International as submitted to French, German and Latvian parties was 21. The "Clarion" published 18. What are the others?

(2) What provision is there for the enforcement of conditions other than the submission of programmes to congress? Or are they on the other hand a series of recommendations to be carried out as our inclinations suggest and circumstances permit?

(3) What need for or advantage is there in affiliation with any European party? In what way as a matter of organization does it enable us to work more efficiently?

(4) Is it possible to affiliate accepting some conditions under protest until next congress permits further discussion of them?

(5) What is the Fourth International? Has it issued any statement on principles and tactics? What parties so far have combined to form its nucleus?

(6) Re condition 8. What is an "oppressed nationality?"

(7) In what way can conditions 4 and 5 relating to propaganda in army and rural districts be realized or treated as other than recommendations?

(8) How are we to discuss the acceptance of "illegal work" in the columns of the "Clarion." I ask because I want to know.

F. W. THOMPSON.

In answer to question No. 1, we quote the following from "Statutes and Conditions of Affiliation of the Communist International," as adopted at the Second Congress of the Third International. This is published by the Communist Party of Great Britain.

19.—All those parties which have joined the Communist International, as well as those which have expressed a desire to do so, are

obliged, as rapidly as possible, and in no case later than four months after the Second Congress of the Communist International, to convene a special congress in order to discuss these conditions. In addition to this, the Executive Committee of these parties should take care to acquaint all the local organizations with the regulations of the Second Congress.

20.—All those parties which at the present time are willing to join the Third International, but have so far not changed their tactics in any radical manner, should, prior to joining the Third International, take care that not less than two-thirds of their committee members and of all their central institutions consist of comrades who have made an open and definite declaration, prior to the convening of the Second Congress, as to their desire that the party should affiliate to the Third International. Exceptions are permitted only with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Third International. The Executive Committee has the right to make an exception also for the representatives of the "centre," as mentioned in paragraph 7.

21.—Those members of the party who reject the conditions and the theses of the Third International are liable to be excluded from the party. This applies particularly to delegates at the Special Congress of the Party.

These extra conditions are addressed to parties like the Independents of Germany and the French Socialist Party, lately weaned from the Second International.

Question 2.—We cannot here place any interpretation upon the clauses in the "Theses." However, we hope to be able to publish in the next "Clarion" issue the "Statutes of the Communist International," which outline the basis of representation of parties affiliated with the Third International.

Questions 3 and 7 we leave to our contributors, and concerning question 4, we must refer Comrade Thompson to the "Theses."

Question 5.—The "Fourth" International simply comprises the effort to revive the Second. The Congress of the Second International held in Geneva, last July, requested the British Labor Party to approach "other Socialist parties" with a view to re-establishing the Second International. The British Labor Party is now fulfilling that function. They are sending out documents signed by Arthur Henderson (Labor Party), J. H. Thomas (Trades Union Congress), H. Gosling (Trades Union Congress) and J. Ramsey MacDonald (British International Secretary). We understand that the main supporting parties are the British Labor Party and the German Social Democratic Party. Their statements on principles and tactics are tinged with a little post-war grief and professions of good intentions. Generally speaking they but confirm our often repeated opinion of the Second International, which we hardly need to re-affirm now.

Question 6.—An "oppressed nationality" is instanced by G. Zinoviev in "Pressing Questions of the International Labor Movement" as Ireland, India, Egypt.

Question 8.—We leave this question to the sagacity of Comrade Thompson.

VANCOUVER "SMOKER."

On the night of the 11th February (and the morning of the 12th) the male members of Local Vancouver suspended for a night the serious analysis of events and world problems, and devoted themselves to bright enjoyment of cheerful song and story, and they incidentally, in the process, consumed a magnificent quantity of beer—72 gallons to be precise—the "nearest" they could get.

Many strange faces were seen in the hall, and while this was the first "smoker" held since the dull dog days of a few years ago, all hands voted it an enjoyable evening, and accordingly a successful event.

Songs, recitations and instrumental items were heartily appreciated, and the perfect arrangements of Comrade Earp and his committee brought forth warm approval from all. The Clarion Maintenance Fund was not forgotten, the surplus over expenditure being \$26.65, which has been received for the maintenance of the "family-journal."

'LEFT WING COMMUNISM,' AN INFANTILE DISORDER.

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P.S. Reader—The Honorable Editor, he swaggers in pugilistically tone: "This is not a review of Lenin's book!!!" And on second thoughts thought I, "neither it is." Gramercy! So much there is in the book of disputable matter now held under advisement in the Party, that to use it, I could hardly escape the charge of partizan abuse of a review. Go then! Buy, beg, borrow or steal thou the book, and thyself review it. C. S.

*Note:—"Left-Wing Communism, An Infantile Disorder." By Nicolai Lenin. 117 pages. Paper cover. Published by Marxian Educational Society, 541 Jos Campan Avenue, Detroit, Mich., U. S. A. Price (American) 50 cents.

PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada, affirm our allegiance to, and support of, the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government, all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-increasing stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore, we call all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers, for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

1. The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
2. The organization and management of industry by the working class.
3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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