

The New Party and Its Leader

By a Member of the Party

THE Federated Labor Party is an organization entirely distinct from any other body. It is not a section of the recognized trades and labor organization, although it was conceived and brought into being by union labor officials. It is an amalgamation of workers, all the forces of labor, organized or otherwise, for the purpose of securing direct representation in the legislative assemblies, provincial and federal.

The platform of the party has been confined to a sentence. The primary object is to secure "industrial legislation," and the ultimate aim is "the collective ownership of the means of wealth production." The work of organization has been going along successfully for some time, and progress is reported throughout the province.

The most remarkable feature in the development of the movement has been its favorable reception even by the most radical wing of the Socialist party. All classes—union members of the "limited objectives" type—are working with radical socialists and unorganized workers in this new league of labor. One of the most enthusiastic advocates of the new party is the member for Newcastle, Mr. J. A. Hawthornthwaite, the sole labor representative at present in the provincial house.

As Mr. Hawthornthwaite is the recognized leader of the party, the writer arranged an interview with him for the purpose of ascertaining his views of the prospects of the Federated Labor Party. The member for Newcastle takes his duties very seriously. He kept the appointment in the labor room of the house

while taking a brief rest after a long morning and afternoon session. "We sat until 2 o'clock this morning and I have been at my desk in the house most of the day," declared Mr. Hawthornthwaite. "I feel rather tired. It is necessary to stay on the job as much as possible. I don't waste much time in speaking, but have tried to work in as many useful amendments as possible."

He was assured that the interviewer had no desire to add to his burdens, but simply wished to hear Mr. Hawthornthwaite's views of the Federated Labor Party.

"It is what many of us have been looking for," he said. "Many times I have been urged to form a labor party which would rally the workers and bring the various elements together, as in Great Britain. But it was useless to attempt to bring about this condition in past years. Circumstances have changed and now the time is ripe for the formation of the party. It is well under way now."

The speaker went on to show how the scattered efforts of labor forces had been unsuccessful in the past. He believed that the door would be opened to brainworkers and the party enriched by the addition of trained minds who would accept the platform of the new party and add intellectual force to the movement. He was hopeful of bringing the workers into closer touch with the fighting men, who, he claimed, had been misled concerning labor's attitude.

War conditions have aroused all classes of workers. The unorganized elements now see the value and power of united effort, while union labor