

THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AND THE AMERICAN MOVEMENT.

Since the organisation of the two Communist Parties in the United States in September, 1919, the Communist International has been called upon to intervene several times. Until August, 1922, the Communist movement in America was generally split, for the unity conventions which took place resulted in a rapid severance of relations. The action of the Executive Committee of the Communist International has been rather too mild than severe, as is claimed by some comrades. Undoubtedly had the Communist International used the strong hand that is necessary in order to have a firm, well-disciplined International, the American movement would have been spared years of internecine warfare, counting many victims.

Through the efforts of the Comintern, after the Communist convention in 1922, the Communist forces were firmly welded together, a condition that is primary to effective revolutionary work.

The necessity of open work was clear to the American comrades, but the raids in January, 1920, which drove the parties underground, had terrified them to such a degree, that they could not conceive of the possibility of having an open party, capable of meeting the demands of the movement at the present time. Not that the American Communists have any illusions as to the "freedom" that the American bourgeoisie will grant them for their revolutionary activity. The American Communists are fully conscious that they must be prepared at any time for a foul blow to be struck—a blow that will be directed not only against the Communists, but against all revolutionary and even progressive workers. The American bourgeoisie is aggressive and brutal and cares little for its own laws; and American "democracy" bears so many of the open earmarks of a sheer dictatorship, that "civil rights" will be revoked without a moment's notice, whenever it serves the interests of the capitalist class. And the American bourgeoisie has a most obedient servant in its own government.

The establishment of the Workers' Party and its development as the successor to the Communist Party of America, have widened the vista of the Communist movement in the United States to a degree hardly conceived by the American

Communists. It has enabled them to get to the masses : it alone has made it possible for them to carry on the widespread propaganda that led to the organisation of the Federated Farmer Labour Party, a movement that will soon unite the many local and State Farmer Labour Parties, into a National Farmer Labour Party. The creation of this last-named party will be an event of tremendous importance in the history of the United States, and of eminent significance to the Communist movement. For it will be the first crystallization *on a mass scale*, of the growing class-consciousness of the American workers and working farmers, against which the capitalist class and the leaders of the reactionary trade unions and conservative farmers' organisations—in other words, Rockefeller, Gompers, Morgan, etc.—are working with feverish energy.

The Workers Party was the first to introduce the slogan of the "Workers' and Farmers' Government." Nevertheless the Communist International, recognising its great significance, clearly laid down the methods and tactics, varying with each country—and, at the same time, pointed out its dangers. Although the time is not yet ripe for a Workers' and Farmers' Government in the United States, the time is not so distant when it will become an issue—an issue dictated by the situation now arising in the United States. The experience in Saxony will be a lesson, a warning to the American Communists as to all Communists.

The necessity of close co-operation between the workers and farmers was first pointed out by Lenin. This applies to an industrial country like the United States, which still has a big farming population, even as it applies to Bulgaria, an agrarian country. The Bulgarian defeat has been the object lesson for all Parties. A clearer understanding has been inculcated, and the Workers' Party is now energetically proceeding to the organisation of the revolutionary farmers into the Party.

The United Front policy has been the basis for excellent results that the Communists have achieved on several fields, viz. : in the trade unions, in the defence of arrested comrades and in the relief of Soviet Russia. It will be the method employed for uniting the workers of America against the brutal measures that the bourgeoisie now intends to enact against the foreign-born workers. The United Front policy will also join the workers and militant farmers against the bold assaults of American imperialism on three continents.

Time and experience have demonstrated that, in all of its theses, the Communist International has been correct,

Based on its statutes of 21 points, the Communist International has created sections in all parts of the world. Only by means of a centrally directed, well-disciplined organisation, can the working class of the world fight against the international bourgeoisie and achieve victory. The Workers' Party adheres to the principles of the Communist International and under its leadership will free the workers and farmers of America from under the heel of American capitalism.

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