

The Mexican I. W. W.

There has been a rupture in the Mexican I. W. W. Until recently it was composed of two heterogeneous elements, wage workers and petit-bourgeois. The former were in sympathy with the non-political, purely industrial union attitude of the I. W. W. of the U. S., while the latter, grouped round Linn A. E. Gale and his magazine, were leaning towards communist politics and the Third International.

It is the old, old story. The same story as the I. W. W. went through in its first years, ending with the striking out of the political clause in 1908. It is the same story as we are going through now when we have been led into a referendum which questions the correctness of our non-political attitude.

Thus again is it proven that any attempt to run an industrial organization as a side show to a political party is a failure. The genuine wage workers will not, and cannot stand for it.

The wage workers faction, the most numerous and the strongest, with the general secretary-treasurer and the majority of the G. E. B. with them, are continuing in charge of the organization, and hope for better progress now that they have rid themselves of the political and petit-bourgeois element.

A letter of recent date from a member of their press committee states that the position taken by The One Big Union Monthly in regard to The Third International is agreeable to the members of their G. E. B., and also says that they are deeply interested in our plan to publish a series of industrial union hand books. Their paper, "El Obrero Industrial," is taking up the study of production.

In a short while they hope to be able to send us good news of the organization among the oil workers of Tampico, who have asked for a charter, and among the metal mine workers of Guanajuato. In Mexico City they are organizing an industrial union of textile and clothing workers. They hope to have more than a hundred to begin with.

Right now "The Obrero Industrial" (The Industrial Worker) is a 4-page monthly, but they hope to issue it twice a month, or even weekly, quite soon.

In addition to the I. W. W., recently started, there is in Mexico a communistic federation, composed of various unions (hitherto unorganized). Theoretically their principles are derived from syndicalist-anarchistic tactics. In practise it is like any other. It permits in its federal council delegates from cultural groups, with voice and vote. Thus the Communist Party, the Federation of Young Communists and a group editing a weekly propaganda paper, "New Life," each have a delegate in this council. Their weakness lies in accepting unions of any kind, trade or industrial, for to them propaganda and declaration of autonomous structure (although it does not exist in praxis) are more important than industrial organization. Those who

are thinking for this federation are all communist party members and swear by the "dictatorship of the proletariat."

"We will combat them, as we have begun, by preaching the economic administration of, by and for workers, industrially organized," says the writer.

As far as The Mexican General Confederation of Labor is concerned, their being affiliated with the A. F. of L. gives them a black eye. But with us, we must expose their hypocrisy, for unlike the A. F. of L., they do not come out for capitalism. They pretend to seek the same aims as the I. W. W. However, the fact is, that the former leaders of this federation accepted positions in the government, the head (even now) of the confederation, Morones, being director of the government war supply factories.

No I. W. W. Delegate at Moscow

As will be seen from the call for an economic international issued from Moscow, published elsewhere in this issue, a representative of the I. W. W. is supposed to have attended the Second Congress of the Third International.

The same statement appears in the following excerpts from an official communist paper of Hungary, "Proletar."

Due to these misrepresentations and to counteract the false impressions they are bound to produce, it was decided in conference between the secretary-treasurer of the I. W. W., the chairman of the General Executive Board of the I. W. W. and the editors of the I. W. W. papers to announce through our press that

The I. W. W. had no accredited representative at the Second Congress of the Third International, and that if anyone appeared as our accredited representative for this particular occasion, he was an impostor.

Excerpts:

"Proletar, Oct. 7, 1920

"Those of our fellow workers, who on the Congress of the Communist International represented the American revolutionary workers, the delegates of the Communist Party, the Communist Labor Party and the I. W. W., all accepted with understanding and enthusiasm the new decisions of the Communist International, in which we summed up all the experiences and struggles of the Russian, Hungarian and German Communist workers."

"After the Second Congress of the Communist International any conduct is criminal that stands in the way of forming a united group in every country of the united Communist International: the united, disciplined and centralized Communist Party. There was no lack of understanding of this on the part of the delegates present of the two American Communist Parties and of the I. W. W. The delegates of the old revolutionary organization, the I. W. W., were convinced, that every revolutionary class struggle is necessarily a political struggle, and the leader of the political struggle cannot be other than the Communist Political Party."

Bela Kun.