

Report

First Annual Conference

of the

Workers and Peasants Party, Bombay.

The first annual conference of the Workers and Peasants Party was held in the Congress House, Bombay, on Sunday, 18th March 1928.

The party was founded in February 1927 by a group of Congress men interested in mass-organization and mass-action of the workers and peasants and believing that India's emancipation can come only from them.

The Secretary's report of work showed that the party had taken an active part in the Congress work in the City, there being about 22 men of the Party on the Provincial Congress Committee, including the vice-president and the secretary of the Congress. It has also three members on the All India Congress Committee. The Report shows that in pursuance of their creed the Party members were actively engaged in trade union work. The Party has amongst its prominent members Mr. Jhabwalla and many other radical trade unionists of the rank and file workers. During the year under report meetings were held to welcome Comrade 'Sak' to Condemn Sacco-Vanzetti-murder, to celebrate the Lenin Day, the Russian Anniversary etc. The Party had also sent delegations to several places to report on labour and peasant organizations to enable the Party to formulate tactic and plan to work amongst them.

The statement of accounts showed receipts amounting to Rs. 2527/12/3 and expenses to Rs. 2418/5/6 leaving a balance on hand of Rs. 109/6/9. The items of receipts were membership subscriptions, donation of Rs.1000/- from Mr. D.R. Thengdi, President of the Party, sale of publications and the Party organ, "Krantii", a marathi weekly, which had to close down, when the Government prosecuted Messrs. P. Spratt and Mirajkar (Party members) for the book "India and China".

Then messages were read from R.R. Bakhle of the All-India Trade Union Congress, the British Communist Party and the Peasants League of Moscow, expressing a wish of success to the Party.

The Conference, insisted of passing resolutions, adopted a number of theses analysing each problem, in its historical and present aspect, in the light of the Party's principles and arriving at a conclusion and programme of work to be followed during the next year. The theses embraced subjects like the Simon Commission, Independence, Peasant movement, trade unions, Youth organisations etc. One of the theses was a statement on the attitude of the Party towards the Congress and its present leadership and also the labour movement. It repudiates the charge that the Party is anti-Congress and says that it stands for complete independence but trusts that only the masses by their militancy can achieve it and that the present leadership instead of organisation is concentrating on constitution, which is to be framed only by a universally elected Constituent Assembly, after capturing political power. Similarly, the Party's attitude towards the present labour leadership was determined by the ultimate goal

of working all the Industries for the benefit of the nation and not for profit. The labour-leadership of to-day was guided by a spirit of mere welfare work and redress of grievances.

This thesis contained appreciation of the Alibag and Bardoli movement, with a warning that the peasants must lead themselves and not be led by the landlords or their sympathisers urged concentrated organisation of the Railway workers on a slogan of 100% increase in wages and condemned the split amongst the Textile leaders as it has facilitated the employer's attack on wages and conditions.

Congratulatory paras regarding the colonial worker's movements in China, Egypt, Japan, Persia were found in the thesis.

The Party also considered the question of reviving the "Krantī" or starting some English organ and contesting seats on the municipalities and local bodies on a ticket of working-class demands.

Will you please publish the above and oblige?

Yours etc.,

S.V. Ghatge, 20/3/

Secretary Workers and

Peasants Party.

Dwarkadas }
Mason }
Bombay. }