

The Workers' & Peasants' Party.

What it stands for-its Programme and Policy.

The workers' and Peasants' Party is the vanguard of the National freedom movement. Following on the stagnating and reactionary policy of the congress which was day after day alienating the sympathies the Workers and Peasants, it was necessary that a party with a programme for the emancipation of the workers and peasants from the financiers and the Landlords, should come into being to voice the grievances of these classes who form the 98% of the population of this country. With the idea of bringing the workers and peasants into the national struggle a small group of workers in the B.P.C.C. formed themselves into the congress labour

group, in order to make the congress really interested in the working class movement. Later in the early part of 1927, this group founded the workers and peasants' party with a definite and clear cut programme and policy.

In accordance with the programme of the party, its policy has been to work in alliance with the nationalist bodies, to develop a movement for National Independence, based upon the Economic demands of the workers and peasants. The party has, therefore undertaken the organisation of the workers, who are subjected to intense exploitation in the absence of any protective legislation, and the lack of means to enforce any that exists. So long the masses have been unable to effectively organise, and has allowed the trade union movement to fall largely under the leadership middle class elements that exploit it for their own political or personal ends. The task of the party is to transform the existing organisations of the workers, so that they will become the real expression of the real working class demands, and to give a correct, courageous and militant lead to the workers in their fight against capitalist exploitation.

The emergence of this party will necessarily mean a death blow to the hesitating, and compromising policy of the erstwhile leaders, which has only widened the breach between the nationalist struggle for freedom, and the working classes. The congress while it has been pretending to be the mouth piece of the whole of the Indian People has in reality no programme for the betterment of the conditions of the masses of the workers and peasants, which programme alone can attract them to the congress. It will also mean better organisation of the workers in Trade unions with a militant policy which will replace the existing disorganisation. Aiming at 100% trade unionism, the party has put down a programme of minimum demands for the workers, which include amongst other things:—

1. The establishment of an 8 hour day and six days a week for industrial workers.
2. Establishment of a minimum living wage.
3. Establishment of schemes insurance for sickness unemployment, and old age pension and maternity benefits.
4. Improvement of laws regarding the workmens' compensation and employers' liability.
5. Installation of modern safety appliances in factories.

On the political field the party's immediate demands are

1. Universal adult suffrage and responsible Govt.

- 2, Abolition of communalism.
3. Freedom of speech, press and the right of association.
4. Removal of all restrictions on Trade Unions.

While the Economic demands consist of the following

1. The abolition of indirect taxation, and introduction of graded incometax on all incomes exceeding 250/monthly.
2. Nationalisation of land, wherein all cultivable land will be leased by the Govt. Direct to the cultivator.
3. Nationalisation of the means of production and distribution.

The fundamental task of the party is the reorganisation of the working class and give it sufficient political education to enable it to come forward as the leading section of the massmovement which is now rising in India The immediate work before the party is to bring together the fighting and progressive forces from all sections, by putting forward its correct, consistent and uncompromising policy in direct contrast to the existing vacillating and spineless policy. A strong, conscious and well disciplined workers and Peasants' party, with its militant policy becomes immediately the leading party of the workers' and Peasants.

On the question of the peasants, the party stands for giving the land to the peasant cultivator, eliminating all idlers and middle men living on the tributes of the peasantry. All uneconomic holdings must be made economic, not by capitalist consolidation and looting the poorest peasant but by adding to the share of the poor holder from the limitless stretches of the absentee landlords. The peasant should not be exploited by way of tributes or free labour. He must be absolved from all compulsory obligations. With this object in view the party's immediate demands in this connection include among others, the elimination of all mid agencies between the peasant and the state, substantial reduction in rent, state credit to the peasant and etc.

With the minimum demands above stated, the party will cooperate with all parties and organisations, without losing its identity, which fight for the liberation of India from Imperialism. It will also cooperate with all organisations fighting for the freedom of the oppressed nations of the world, and will ally itself with the militant anti-Imperialist working class of the Imperialist countries.

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