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first charge is that the Socialists of Michigan sought to get into the limelight by being the first to call for a Communist Party. Now the truth is that the members of the Emergency Convention in Detroit sought to avoid that very thing. Of course, being the first state to be expelled by the Socialist Party, Michigan logically had the right to issue such a call. And there was some sentiment in the aforesaid Emergency Convention in favor of the immediate organization of a Communist Party. But the consensus of opinion was that Michigan should not pose as the founder of the Communist Party, but should prepare a tentative call which should not be made public until after being submitted to the Left Wing Conference, the plan being that the the Call should not be by a mere state, but by a nationally representative Conference. So the delegates from Michigan, far from being "arrogant," actually preferred to remain somewhat in the background, and take the comparatively modest position of supporters of a National Call. Had they issued the call before referring it to the Left Wing Conference, and then baldly invited the Confer-

ence to "endorse" it, there would have been some reason for charging arrogance.

However, there was another point that worried certain leaders of the Majority still more. The Michigan call was worded in such a way that if the Left Wing Conference refused its endorsement, and slavishly insisted on remaining a mere "Left Wing" of the old Socialist Party, the call for a new party was nevertheless to be issued anyhow. To the self-appointed leaders of the "Left," such determination to pass upon their counsels, and disregard them should they prove reactionary, seemed the height of impudence. "Why!" they shrieked, "these arrogant members from Michigan are going to call for a new party whether we want them to or not!"

Well, why not? It was not inconceivable that the Left Wing should adopt a dilly dallying policy of much talk and little deed, a policy of attempting to remain within the old party at any cost and at the same time making the loudest protestations of "Bolshevism." And this is precisely what happened.

To such a policy the Socialist Party of Michigan was from the start firmly opposed. For them no compromise was pos-

sible. Even though the "Left Wing" were willing thus to "mark time in the wake of the Right," as one delegate expressed it, Michigan was determined not to sanction any such stand. Hence the announcement on the floor of the convention that, in the event the Conference refused, while working to capture the August 30 convention, to endorse provisionally the call for a September 1 convention, the call of Michigan for a new party convention would be sent out without such endorsement.

As it happened, a substantial minority of the convention, including those from Michigan, were so dissatisfied with the action of the Majority that they finally withdrew in a body, met separately, drew up a Call and Manifesto which, being tentatively concurred in by the Michigan delegates, thereby superseded the Michigan Call as a national organization manifesto, inasmuch as it is representative of the nation rather than a state, and is now before the Socialist rank and file as a tentative basis for Communist Party organization.

But what has happened to the charge of "arrogance?" Gone;—gone with the dying "Left Wing."

## THE LETTISH SOVIETS

Today the session of the Central Executive Committee of Latvia was held. The commissars present read the reports of their activity and the situation in each department. The Commissar of Interior Lenzman stated that the Soviet Government at the present moment has been put on a firm basis, and there are no counter-revolutionary attempts in the country. In the Courland part of Latvia sporadic struggle is still going on, but there is hope that normal order will soon be established. The representative of the Riga Soviet and the Commissar of Finances made a report on commercial exchange with Russia, which at the present moment is completely organized. It is expected that not later than next week the first shipment of bread from Russia will arrive in sixty trains, in exchange for which Latvia sends plows, shovels, scythes, iron pails and various agricultural implements to Russia.

The chairman of the Soviet of People's Commissars — Stushka, made a report on the external situation of Latvia, which, in his opinion, has improved a great deal within the past week. "At the present time," said Comrade Stushka, "there has evidently occurred a sharp change in the disposition of Sweden for intervening in the Baltic affairs. In connection with this, the attempts of the bourgeois government in involve Sweden in a war with us have failed. At any event,

there is information at hand to the effect that the agreement with Sweden and Finland regarding joint action against the Bolsheviks, proposed by the Lithuanian-Esthonian bourgeois, has not been realized. True, negotiations in this respect are still on between Sweden and Finland, but there is hope that the Russian position will triumph in Finland." As regards the situation in Germany, Com. Stushka said that in accordance with data on hand, the German revolution is going forward in great strides. The situation there is better than the rumors spread here through the German newspapers would indicate. "The Scheidemann Government," said Com. Stushka, "lives under the constant threat of invasion of our troops into German territory. The extent of this fear can be judged from the fact that we recently received a request from Germany, that in case of our movement westward, we should not cross the frontier, but take a neutral zone." Com. Stushka thinks that there is no force in the world which might arrest the spread of communist ideas.

### The Soviet Government's Note To The Government of Latvia.

By a series of uprisings of the people in Vaalk, Volmar, Venden, Riga, Mitau, Basuk, Tukum, Windau—in all these cities of Latvia, the laboring people of the villages and cities came into power. Only in Libau the uprising of the work-

ing class has not triumphed, owing to the support offered by the German and Allied forces to the provisional government of the agriculturist Ulman and speculator M. Walter, who find no support in the masses of the people; for already during the elections to the Constituent Assembly, as well as to the local county Soviets and city dumas with the universal, suffrage of the Kerensky regime—they received 10 per cent of all the votes, whereas our candidates, i. e., the candidates of the communist party of Latvia, received two thirds of all the votes, despite the fact that from the centers, as early as in 1915, for military considerations, the most conscious section of the workers had been drawn away. Indeed, out of the eleven members of the Soviet Government of Latvia, six are members of the Russian Constituent Assembly, the others members of the Riga city council,

In Libau we are opposed mainly by the German steel divisions, having for their object to carry away all stolen goods at the first opportune moment, contending that they are unlawful, under the Brest-Litovsk treaty, which has been annulled, requisition of food and other property; and in Windau, where this plunder on the part of the Germans evidently has been finished, some sort of a landing party of unknown origin appeared, which began to bombard the city after it had been forced to retreat.

While the Allies send invita-

tions to us to participate in peace negotiations at some unknown island in the Sea of Marmora, to which we cannot even find our way except in cages or closed trains of the Allies, we get the news about the agreements among Sweden, Finland and England to land a Swedish dessant on the coast of Latvia, with the understanding that in return they are, during the division of the world, to get a protectorate over the Baltic provinces.

At the same time, the "socialist" German government brandishes its weapons before us, under the laughable pretext that the Lettish troops threaten to attack the remnants of Prussian militarism.

The new Soviet Government of independent Latvia, formed through the will of the working people of Latvia, and re-elected at the congress of the Soviets of the united Latvia, assembled in the number of 705 delegates, Jan. 13-15. For the short period of its existence it proved that in reality it is not only supported by the majority of the population, but that it begins successfully the reconstruction on socialistic principles on the ruins received as an inheritance from the imperialist war. The higher level of culture of the working population of Latvia, in city and village, opens a way for a successful and more speedy realization of the economic measures which the neighboring Russian Republic is laboring hard to put thru.

And here, evidently, lies the