

The Communist International

The Socialist Party of Italy Becomes Definitely Communist.

THE Socialist Party of Italy was revolutionary during the war. This spring the Party affiliated with the Communist International. The revolutionary conquest of the Party was completed at its Convention in Bologna last week, where the Socialist Party of Italy organized definitely as a Communist party. There were 48,000 votes cast for the Maximalist program, uncompromisingly Communist; 14,000 votes for affirmation of the program of 1892; and 3,000 votes cast for the "Abstentionist" program, which urges complete abstention from participation in the elections.

The Maximalist program, which is now the program of the Party, is as follows:

The history of society up to the present time has been a history of class war. When productive energies come into conflict with the interests of property and production and their social and political organs a phase of social revolution results by the passage of political power from one class to the other. Modern bourgeois society, arising from the ruins of feudalism, has not abolished class conflict, it has merely created new classes, other oppressive conditions and a new form of struggle replacing the old. During our own epoch society tends more and more to divide into two classes which oppose one another; the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. At the same time that the bourgeois revolution brought these classes into contrast, they set up political rule by representative democracy, in which economical disparity is superimposed on the formal liberty and political equality of citizens of all classes in the constitution of the elective organs of the State. In spite of the numerical supremacy of the proletariat over that of the bourgeoisie, the democratic state still remains the organ of the interests administering the affairs of the bourgeois classes.

All classes and political struggles tend towards the transformation of the basis of production. The aim of Communists is the international organization of the proletariat into a political class government, the destruction of bourgeois power, the conquest of political power by the proletariat. The specific instrument of this action is the Communist Party.

This party, as the struggle must evolve within the limits of bourgeois rule, undertakes propaganda, proselytism, the criticism of capitalistic rule and political opposition to the ruling classes: in this wise we can justify, as a temporary measure, participation in electoral and parliamentary struggles.

When the revolutionary phase of the historical struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie is initiated, the task of the proletarian political party is the violent crushing of the rule of the bourgeoisie and the organization of the proletariat as the dominant class. From this moment it becomes incompatible to send deputies of the party to the representative organs of the bourgeois rule in which the proletariat is the oppressed class, and in the same manner to those

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organs in which the property holding classes participate. During the great war which precipitated the definite crisis of the bourgeois, and which made it impossible for them to regulate the intimate contrasts of the world of production, the outbreak of the Russian Social Revolution marked the revolutionary period in which the proletariat rose successively to power in various countries by the violent conquest of state powers and therefore the Communist Parties must direct their tactics towards this realization. The class political party maintains intimate collaboration with the working syndicates (unions) co-ordinating and directing the action of the political struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat. They constitute the provision of temporary organs of the working classes destined to prepare for and to organize measures for the crushing of bourgeois rule, and to assuming power in the early phase of the revolution.

When the proletariat shall have succeeded in their struggle against the bourgeoisie, it provides: temporary Committees to be immediately set up ready to assume local and centralized executive functions, the elections of local councils of workers must be inaugurated independently of the professional categories to which they belong, and divided into town and country constituencies. Both active and passive electoral rights will be reserved to the workers alone of both sexes independently of sex and nationality, only excluding those who live by exploiting the labor of others. In this way the foundations of proletarian dictatorship are laid. A Congress of local Councils will be convoked which will elect the Central Council; and this will assume executive functions by means of appropriate organs.

Any delegate can be recalled at any time by the will of the electorate. This system constitutes the proletarian State, an organ for the dominion of the working classes over the bourgeoisie and for its expropriation.

To prevent attempts at counter-revolution by the capitalistic class and so as to overcome the resistance that they will oppose to expropriation the proletariat must be armed by forming a class militia.

So soon as the Socialist State be formed it will form unlimited political and economical solidarity with any other Communist Republics in the world, and will aid the Communist movement in those countries still dominated by the bourgeoisie with all the means at its disposal.

The task of the proletarian Government is to take over gradually from the

bourgeoisie all capital so as to centralise all the instruments of production into State ownership, that is among the proletariat itself organized as a ruling class, so as to increase the volume of the productive energies as rapidly as possible.

The subsequent measures of socialisation and expropriation will be co-ordinated to the economical and social conditions, and to the necessity for paralyzing production to the least possible degree during the process of transformation from private to communistic ownership.

The first measures will be: the socialisation of financial capital and the suppression of the State debt, excluding small capitalists; the socialisation of houses, means of transport, larger industrial and agricultural property. Special measures must be instituted affording inducements for small proprietors to come into the communistic organization voluntarily.

We maintain that such a process as this is the sole method of concrete realisation of equality and human liberty, which predicates the disappearance of exploitation between man and man. The proletarian State will make use of all its repressive activities against individual or organized collectivities who endeavor to obstruct the realization of the communist program, not feeling justified in delaying the rapid evolution of social revolution by sacrificing it to the abstract and formal conception of liberty.

Together with the socialisation of the various economical divisions they will cease to be a private affair of either individuals or groups of individuals so as to become the collective function of associated humanity.

The means and the measure of production and transport and the due disposition of products will be ordered by competent internationally affiliated organisms.

When expropriation of all capital is finally effected, the bourgeoisie will gradually be absorbed and will cease to exist as a separate class.

Public executive power will then lose its political character as there will no longer be two classes, one dominated and the other dominating.

Little by little the sad inheritance of degeneration which characterises capitalistic rule will be eliminated, and in the place of the old society divided into classes conflicting one with the other, an association will be instituted in which the free development of each individual will constitute the necessary condition for the free development of society in general.

According to the Swedish "Politiken" a Moscow report states that a Conference (International Bureau) of the Communist International will be held sometime in December to make final arrangements for the second Congress of the International. A report from the Lithuanian Communist Party says the Congress will be held this January. The social-patriotic second "International" will hold a Congress at Geneva in February.

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