

The Communist International

The Communist Party of Mexico

THE Left Wing of the Mexican Socialist Party is now provisionally organized as the Communist Party of Mexico, with its first convention scheduled for some time in November. The break occurred at the Socialist Party Convention (almost simultaneously with the formal split of the Socialist Party in this country), upon the issue of the seating of Luis N. Morones, "the Mexican agent of Samuel Gompers", as a delegate in the Socialist Congress. It was this same Morones who sat in the Atlantic City Convention of the American Federation of Labor as a fraternal delegate while a resolution was adopted favoring the exclusion of immigrants (from Mexico also) for a period of two years at least. The issue was Gomerism versus radical unionism.

The main feature of the Communist program of action in Mexico is, of course, the fight against intervention, and insistent appeal is made to the American workers to oppose the plans of our imperialists by revolutionary mass action. The Communist

Party of Mexico may soon become the majority party

So far the Communist Party of America has had no opportunity for such contact with the new Mexican party as to formulate a basis for common action.

The emergence, in Mexico, of an organization which seeks identify with the Communist International is an event of great importance—an event which may develop crucial significance in the Communist conflict with American Imperialism.

The Communist Situation in Germany

PAPERS from Germany, Communist, Independent Socialist and social-patriotic, are all in accord about one feature of the revolutionary movement there. While Independent and Majority papers state with a certain amount of fear, the Communist papers state with satisfaction, the growth of the Communist Party of Germany. It is admitted that the Communist Party is gaining ground so rapidly that a new uprising

of the Spartacans is certain during the coming winter months, or soon after.

The Spartacans issued recently a Manifesto to the peasants of Germany calling upon them to unite with the Communist Party on the basis of its Agrarian Program. This Program proved to be what the peasants of Germany were looking for, because neither the majority Socialists nor the Independents were able to offer anything for the benefit of the rural proletariat and the small landowners of Germany, upon which the success of Communism is dependent to a large extent. After issuing this program, the Communists began to gain ground, mostly in the village Workers' Councils. While the Majority Socialists are trying to prevent the spread of Communism by suppressing the Communist papers, the Independent Socialists are looking with envy upon the rapid growth of their rival on the political field.

Both the Independent and the Majority Socialist parties are facing the danger of factional splits, by which the Communists alone will profit.

Declaration on Communist Unity

To the Executive Committee and the Members of the Communist Labor Party

Comrades:—

This statement by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party is in reply to your proposal of a conference between the two Executive Committees to see if there is some basis for uniting the two parties.

The Communist Party earnestly desires Communist unity in the United States. While there are some elements represented in the organization of the Communist Labor Party which have not irrevocably severed themselves from the Socialist Party in principle, it is our belief that there are several thousands Communists who are now identified with this party because of the circumstance that their delegates at Chicago attended the Convention which created the Communist Labor Party. These comrades, perhaps five thousand in number, are particularly from the Western States, where there was not close contact with the Left Wing developments.

In the Eastern States there are perhaps another five thousand of former members of the Socialist Party who have been left in a state of confusion because their delegates at Chicago took part in the formation of a third party. In this group, however, it is not so clear that the members thus represented are ready for the decisive step from Socialism to Communism. In this respect the membership situation corresponds fairly accurately with the convention situation out of which the third party arose, since in the Communist Labor Party Convention were many delegates who had not before committed themselves to the formation of a new party.

It is important that in so far as there are Communist elements in the Communist Labor Party that there be unity of these elements with the Communist Party.

The question is as to the practical means to bring about unity. Will a conference between the two executive committees be of any use for this purpose?

We think not; and we believe that it is more to the point for our committee at once to lay down the basis for unity which would necessarily be our governing instructions in such conference.

The Communist Convention acted clearly and decisively at Chicago, with the sincere purpose of attaining fundamental Communist unity. We could not deal with the Communist Labor Party as a "party", though were most eager to have with us the delegates in that convention who were representatives of Communist membership. It is unnecessary to review our proposals made at that time. Wherever presented fairly to the Communist membership, the action of our Convention has been approved.

At all stages preliminary to the creation of a third party, the official representatives of the

Adopted by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party.

Left Wing made every possible effort to head off the conscious scheme to create a third party. The National Left Wing Council made its appeals to the Left Wing delegates at the Socialist Party convention individually and collectively. In the caucus meetings of these delegates, before and after bolting the Socialist Party convention, Comrade C. E. Ruthenberg made repeated efforts, in behalf of Left Wing unity, to get effective action for united building of the one Communist Party. When these efforts were defeated, by a combination of those who were not yet fully decided upon a decisive break with the Socialist Party and those who had come to Chicago purposely to start a third party, and when a committee of the Communist Labor Party Convention came over to offer merger to the Organization Committee of the Communist Party, the appeal was again made that the Communist Convention be given a chance to deal with these delegates as delegates, not as a "party", otherwise there could be no merger.

We have charged and we now insist that the organization of the Communist Labor Party was a deliberate act against Communist unity, so far as the conscious manipulators of the situation were concerned. But we repeat that this charge only touches a minority of the delegates of the Communist Labor Convention. We repeat that the membership is in no way to blame for this outcome of events at Chicago.

The membership of the Communist Labor Party is no more to blame for the eagerness of the National Secretary of the Communist Labor Party to run Socialist candidates and garner Socialist votes. The membership is taking much more seriously the issues which divide Socialists and Communists at this crucial time of class warfare. Nor is the membership to blame for any want of clarity and precision of Communist understanding in the program and constitution of the party. Their response is to the idea of a fundamental break with the old Socialist conceptions and the beginning of a militant Communist organization.

Unity is now a membership proposition, not an affair of dickering between executive officers. The old issues which divided Left Wing delegates at Chicago mean nothing now to the membership. What interests them now is the actual creation and work of a real Communist organization. We are doing the best service for Communist unity by our work for Communist principles, thus proving our organization in action.

It would be folly to distract from our party work for aimless negotiations which could only encourage a state of indecision. We can make as

clear a statement now to the Communist Labor membership as we made to the Communist Labor delegates at Chicago. A conference could add nothing to this statement.

We will accept Communist Labor Party branches as branches of the Communist Party, if these branches or locals accept our program and constitution. This will at once give this membership a "basis of equality" with the existing Communist units; and it will give this membership full opportunity to choose their preferred delegates for the June convention of the Communist Party. No elections or appointments in the Communist Party go beyond this June convention, so the membership will have every opportunity for sharing in the control of the party at this early date. There is also immediate recourse to referendum on any matter, or recall of any party official, with every opportunity for discussion of party problems in the party press and its forums.

In order to avoid any embarrassment on account of work undertaken or expenses incurred, we offer to liquidate the national organization of the Communist Labor Party, to take over its work, liabilities and assets. This would absolve the Communist Labor Party membership from any responsibility incurred by having joined the third party.

For such purpose, we will be glad to appoint a special committee to meet with a similar committee of the Communist Labor Party, this joint committee to arrange for the liquidation of the national organization of the Communist Labor Party.

No other plan or proposal could be made in conformity with the decisions of the convention which are binding at all times upon this committee. We can only interpret the decisions embodied in the resolutions and in the constitution formulated by the controlling organ of our party—the Convention.

We appeal to the Communist Labor Party membership which is truly Communist to take this situation in their own hands and to compel unity on a fundamental basis. The actions of the Communist convention which bind us as a committee are the very best proofs that the Communist Party is founded firmly upon understanding and adherence to Communist principles. There never was any reason for the organization of a third party, except as such a party embodies the elements of indecision, except as it is in truth a party of Centrism. There is no valid reason for the continuation of the Communist Labor Party except as a party of Centrism. We appeal to the Communists in the ranks of the Communist Labor Party to align themselves at once where they really belong—in the Communist Party, for the better building of a party in America with that staunch adherence to principle which alone can make a real Communist Movement.