

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Norway Socialists Join Third

The National Convention of the Norwegian Social-Democratic Party, held March 26 in Christiania, voted 281 to 20 to join the Third International and accept the conditions of affiliation. By approving the theses and declarations of the Second Congress of the Communist International, the Norwegian Party has rounded out a revolutionary history begun with Kienthal. It was among the first to join with the Russian Bolsheviks in building a new International, and is now a strong link in the family of revolutionary Socialist parties.

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Louvain Socialists Awakening from Social Patriotic Stupor

The Labor (Socialist) Party of Louvain (Belgium) adopted a resolution by a vote of 2,830 against 2,170 declaring against the principle of national defense, favoring an active Socialist and anti-militarist propaganda in the army and instructing the Socialist Deputies to vote against military appropriations and for the abolition of military service. The action of the Louvain Socialists shows that light is breaking even in the ranks of the Belgian party, steeped in crimes against the best traditions of the revolutionary Socialist movement. The recent approval by the Belgian Socialists of the German reparations decided upon by the Allied prime-ministers was another nail in the coffin of the Second International.

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Communists Win Municipal Seats in Esthonia

With 393 out of 426 districts accounted for in the last municipal elections the reactionary Labor Party increased its number of seats from 69 to 81, the Social-Democrats (Mensheviks) were reduced in representation from 146 to 21; the Independents added 5 to the 22 seats previously held; while the Communists, who were altogether absent in the municipal legislative halls, have obtained 34 mandates. When the struggle assumes a decisive character, the extreme right and left parties increase in adherents while the wavering and middle-of-the-road reformers are discredited and deserted.

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Swedish Left Socialists Endorse 21 Points

The Socialist Party (Left) held a national convention during Easter week at which it was decided by a vote of 175 to 34 to accept the 21 conditions laid down by the Second Congress of the Third International. The minority withdrew from the convention and is planning to organize an independent Socialist party. The name of the Socialist Party was changed to the Communist Party (Swedish Section, Third International). According to Secretary Ström the referendum on the acceptance of the 21 points resulted in 5,400 votes cast in favor and 1,500 against unconditional affiliation with the Third. The revolutionary elements have parted with the reformists, and the complete orientation of the Swedish Left toward Moscow augurs well for a glorious future for revolutionary Socialism in Sweden.

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Branting Pleads for a Raise in the King's Wages

Hjalmar Branting succeeded Emile Vandervelde as chairman of the International Socialist Bureau when the duties of the latter as Belgian Minister of State and war propagandist prevented him from exercising his functions as chief executive of the Second International. Branting was the white hope of the old International and, with the removal of the Bureau to Holland, was expected to resuscitate the shattered organization. He was the last person for the job. As an agent of Allied imperialism, as a reformist of the worst caliber, as a social-patriotic member of the Swedish government he was a living example to what depths the leadership of the Second International have fallen.

During a recent debate on the project to increase the court budget by 500,000 kronen, Branting attacked the Left Socialist deputies who opposed the increase. In the course of the discussion on the bill Deputy Wenneström (Left Socialist) reminded Branting that while he was

championing an increase of 25 per cent in the King's salary the wages of the workers were being reduced 25 per cent. The former chairman of the Second International is, it seems, more at home battling in behalf of kings than workers who will be taxed to pay the increase in wages to the underpaid Swedish monarch.

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Communist Party Formed in Australia

A constituent convention of representatives from the Socialist Party, Socialist Labor Party and I. W. W. organized the Communist Party of Australia. A unification of the Australian Socialist forces has been sought for a number of years. Under the banner of the Third International the Communist Party will jointly with the radical wing in the Labor Party work for the revolutionizing of the Australian labor movement, which should not be a hard task after the experience Australian Labor has had with Hughes and his ilk during the war.

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Composition of Russian Communist Party

A census of 92,902 Communists distributed in 17 provinces and 144 counties showed, according to a report made at the Tenth Congress of the Communist Party held last March, that 82,798 or 89 per cent were men and 10,104 or 11 per cent were women. According to their occupations these members were distributed as follows:

	Number	Per cent
Workers	40,877	44
Clerks, etc.	20,438	22
Peasants	13,935	15
Craftsmen employed in home industries	4,465	5
Intellectuals	5,574	6
Miscellaneous	7,432	8
	92,902	100

The comparative youth of the party membership is indicated by the fact that only 12 per cent of the total membership investigated belonged to the party (Social-Democratic Labor Party) prior to the November, 1917, Revolution. The largest number, 36 per cent, joined from November, 1917, to August, 1919; 30 per cent were added to the movement during the "Party Week" at the end of 1919; 21 per cent joined in August, 1920, and the remaining one per cent gave no date. The great majority of the membership, 87 per cent, have entered the party after the proletarian revolution in 1917 and with only 3½ years of membership they have built a party which presides over the destinies of the Soviet Republic, is challenging world reaction and Socialist reformism alike and is a constant source of inspiration to the class-conscious and revolutionary workers of the world.

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French Socialists Denounce Threat to Occupy Ruhr

Unlike the Belgian "Socialists" who applauded the imperialist and vindictive reparation decision of the Allied governments, the French Socialists are carrying on an intensive campaign against the designs of the French government on the Ruhr coal mines. "L'Humanité," the official organ of the Socialist Party (French Section of the Communist International) prints a manifesto addressed to the new recruits and old soldiers in which the nature of the imperialist and jingoist schemes of the French capitalists are exposed and the reasons for the proposed occupation of the Ruhr district are explained. The conscripted soldiers are adjured to keep in mind the identity of interest between them and the workers and peasants of France as well as their duty to the workers of the other countries and, in the present crisis, particularly the workers of revolutionary Russia and Germany. From a tiny minority at Zimmerwald, French revolutionary Socialism has under the leadership of Loriot (not Cachin, as the opponents of the Third continually insist) become the controlling element in the Socialist Party. Having banished social patriotism and pacifism from its midst, it has fashioned a proletarian party which is destined to dictate the future history of France.

A. L. T.

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