

with the theses and decisions of the Comintern. I purposely took no part in the working out of the theses and resolutions, except in general discussions with three of the comrades who met with me regularly during the congress: feeling that the matter should arise and settle itself spontaneously.

It is not necessary to speak at length about the theses and resolutions, since they will shortly reach you. I shall merely briefly report on some of the special problems and the action thereon.

(1) The theses on political action are not wholly satisfactory. While it accepts in principle the Comintern's position on parliamentarism and elections, it states that for the time being the party will not participate in the elections. This is obviously a compromise. But I believe that - under the prevailing conditions it is a necessary compromise. The best comrades I was in contact with agreed to the compromise, and for me to have forced the issue would have had bad results. The best Mexican comrades, while accepting Communism, are still tinged Syndicalist conceptions of parliamentarism, and the radical masses more so. European politics and elections are ideal in comparison with the corrupt system which dominates in Mexico, and the "labor leaders" and "friends of the working class who get into office are corrupt to the bone and marrow. The argument was that for the new party at once to participate in the elections would isolate it from the best sections of the working class, and there is truth in the argument. Let us first, it was said to me, build the party and get the workers confidence, and then we can go on to the program of participating in the elections. The argument, I am convinced, is honestly made. However, I feel also that our comrades place too much emphasis on the importance of the syndicalist elements, are in some measure afraid of them, and that participation in the elections is not so dangerous as they think. At the next international congress this question should be discussed by the Executive with the Mexican delegates and if you impose the condition of immediate participation, I am sure it will be accepted.

2) The party's attitude to a prospective new "revolution" was another very serious problem. In the past two or three months there has been talk and manoeuvres of a new "revolution" - naturally rallying around some general. The Anarcho-syndicalist elements are clamouring for arming the workers and participation in such a revolution. Valades¹³²⁰, our organiser in the North, returned excited about the prospects of a new revolution and urged that the party should agitate for such a revolution. I emphatically opposed the proposal, and the matter was thoroughly discussed between Valades,

¹³²⁰ José Cayetano Valadés. Véase la nota 1298.