

SECOND CONVENTION, WORKERS' PARTY OF CANADA

By EARL BROWDER,

Fraternal Delegate from W. P. of A.

On February 22, the Workers' Party of Canada opened its second convention in Toronto. There were 42 delegates in attendance, representing 4,800 members, covering the entire Dominion from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

It was distinctly a communist convention. This was recognized at once by friends and enemies alike. The daily capitalist press of Toronto immediately played up "communism" in the headlines. On the other hand, the delegates took their communist character seriously, as was seen in the business like fashion in which they took up their work.

An early order of business was addresses by fraternal delegates. The first one was from the Central Trades and Labor Assembly of Toronto, who welcomed the delegates in the name of organized labor. This was typical of the entire atmosphere of the gathering, which was labor throughout. Jim McLachlin, fighting leader of the Nova Scotia miners, was another delegate to talk. The representative of the Workers' Party of America was there to demonstrate the international solidarity of the sister parties. The convention was organized by the election of a presidium of five, all of whom were trade union fighters.

Rallying Point for Labor Left Wing.

In the practical working program of the Canadian party there was worked out a realistic and revolutionary line of action. It is in close agreement with that of the W. P. of A. on all points of principle. The question of the Labor Party looms large in Canada, as it does in the U. S. The Canadian comrades faced it squarely and decided upon an energetic campaign to infuse new life and vigor into the Canadian Labor Party, to bring about a better national co-ordination within, and to continue the policy of making the Workers' Party an integral and autonomous part of the Labor Party.

In the past year the W. P. of C. showed that it has its feet solidly on the ground on the question of the labor unions. It has become the rallying center for the Canadian left-wing, throwing its full support behind the Trade Union Educational League. This work has borne such good fruit that the Canadian trade unions have been stirred up from top to bottom

over the issues of amalgamation, the Labor Party, the Red International of Labor Unions, and the other league issues. Great victories have been recorded in Canada in the past year.

A "Striking" Example.

An incident occurred during the convention which typifies the relation of the W. P. of C. to the labor movement. A strike was on in Sydney, N. S., among the workers of the British Empire Steel Co. The Workers' Party sent organizers there, and threw the full support of its press on the side of the strikers. The strike was settled in favor of the men while the convention was in progress. The men, in returning to work, adopted a resolution of appreciation, and voted a substantial sum of money in support of the Canadian Worker.

The report of the delegate to the Fourth Congress of the Communist International was one of the important points of the convention. It was delivered by Comrade Maurice Speeter, who dealt at length with the world situation as well as with the practical activities of the movement, with especial attention to Canada and the U. S. The decisions of the Fourth Congress were enthusiastically endorsed. The convention sent the following cablegram to the C. I.:

"Second Dominion Convention of the Workers' Party of Canada sends greetings to Comintern. Unanimous desire to work among the masses for revolutionary labor movement. Convention looks forward to not distant future when the Workers' Party will be a section of the Communist International. Long live communism!"

Great stress was laid, throughout the convention, upon the necessity of the closest organic contact with the movement in the United States. This took a practical turn when the convention voted its full support to the Labor Defense Council in fighting the Michigan prosecutions.

The second convention of the Workers' Party of Canada demonstrated that after but one year of experience, the comrades north of the line have established a sound, well-disciplined Communist Party, willing and capable of taking its part in the class struggle of America. Its future is bright and its record of the coming year may confidently be looked forward to as one of fruitful struggle for a revolutionary labor movement.