

CANADIAN STALINIST SPLIT

NEW C.P. FORMED

THE DECEMBER 1945 ISSUE OF "LABOUR CHALLENGE", CANADIAN SOCIALIST PAPER, REPORTS THE FORMATION OF A "CANADIAN COMMUNIST PARTY" BY A GROUP OF WORKERS EXPELLED FROM THE "LABOUR PROGRESSIVE PARTY", THE CANADIAN STALINIST ORGANISATION.

This group of militant workers, led by McKean, ex-provincial leader of the L.P.P., was expelled in the midst of an internal discussion equal to the recently held Browder-Foster discussion in the American Stalinist organisation. The official statement issued by the L.P.P. was that McKean and his followers in British Columbia had been "convicted" of spreading "slandrous" statements against Tim Buck and the leadership of the L.P.P.

The programme of this newly formed "Canadian Communist Party" clearly demonstrates the far-reaching political differences of these militant workers with the policy of Stalinism. Their policy statement reads in part:

"As a separate class, the economic and political interests of the working-class can only be served by an independent political party whose policies represent the best interests of labour.

"The Labour Progressive Party posing as a Marxist Party of the working class, has falsely advised the workers that their interests could best be served by collaborating with the employers; they falsely promised full employment, prosperity and security; they falsely advocated that labour's interests could be served by entering the government with the capitalist's own party—the Liberal party—in the form of a Liberal Labour coalition government. The policies of the Labour Progressive Party have been designed more to utilise the trade union movement to secure votes and force the C.C.F. to agree to a saw-off in the division of parliamentary seats by the hypocritical use of the slogan "labour unity" than to genuinely defend the true interests of the membership of the trade unions.

"Dominated by a bureaucratic top leadership which forced the membership to accept ready-made policies without any democratic discussion, the L.P.P. by machine-like tactics, has, on

many occasions, succeeded in prevailing upon the membership of the trade unions to accept policies against their own best interests.

". . . the L.P.P. can no longer be considered as a bona fide workers' party but rather as a second Social Democratic reform party, copied after the C.C.F., but competing with the C.C.F. for the working class vote.

"The C.C.F. has a programme of reforms and extension of public ownership which in no wise corresponds to a programme of scientific socialism: or the kind of programme, strategy and tactic necessary to give a correct lead to the working class in its day to day problems."

And then, under the heading: "For An Independent Class Party of the Working Class", the statement outlines its general objectives: the establishment of working class power through the methods of Marxism-Leninism.

Despite important omissions—the nature of Stalinism, the causes for the degeneration of the Third International, open recognition of the need for an international based upon Leninism and Trotskyism—this programme of these communist workers is a great step forward and will have profound repercussions in the Canadian Stalinist organisations.

In every country the advanced workers are moving to a collision with the counter-revolutionary and reformist policies of Stalinism. In Britain this has already taken the form of a revolt, as yet elementary, against the policies of the British "Communist" Party which has become the champion of state-capitalism.

Our Canadian comrades will, we are sure open up discussions, with a view to bringing these Communist workers into the ranks of the Fourth International, the World Party of Socialist Revolution.