

HOW TO TACKLE THE ELECTION

THE following letter has been sent to Mr. Arthur Henderson, for the National Joint Council, by the Communist Party of Great Britain:—

Dear Mr. Henderson,—

I am instructed by the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party to inform you that they desire to associate themselves with the National Joint Council in its manifesto exposing the machinations of the war party, and demanding the resignation of Lloyd George's Government and the election of a new Parliament. We are particularly impressed by the firm insistence that the task of any new government elected at the present juncture must be not merely to make a drastic revision of British policy in the Near East, but also to grapple resolutely with "all the other pressing home and foreign problems which the Government of our country must face."

Taking into account the truly desperate situation of the British workers—the spectre of unemployment, the capitalist attack on wages, hours, and working conditions, the high cost of living—and the complete absence of any sign of awakening conscience or reason on the part of the ruling capitalist cliques, the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party hastens to express its entire agreement and solidarity with the National Joint Council in this declaration: and is ready to prove its solidarity in practice by every means at its disposal.

To no statement in particular does the Communist Party more heartily subscribe than to the Council's call for a "definite and decisive" way out of the present situation, especially the demand for the ending of the present Government.

The whole question of the ending of the present Government and of its replacement by a Workers' Government, pledged to uncompromising measures of reform, must be faced honestly and squarely. This is particularly pressing, in view of the cleavages and conflicts in the ranks of the Coalition. And in any whirlwind election campaign, when it will be a question of rallying the workers as one huge mass round the watchword and programme of a Workers' Government—then more than ever must the entire forces of the organised working class be drawn together in one united front, both locally and nationally.

The experience of the Communist Party teaches it, as doubtless does the practise of every other party which has grown out of the working class and comes into daily contact with it, that the most powerful weapons at the disposal of the workers when they require to bring about definite and decisive results, are bodies which are representative of all phases and shades of the general working class movement, and dispose both of the industrial strength of organised Labour and of the political experience and devotion of all the various working class parties. Local Councils of Action, linked up in a national centre, and representative of all trade unions, trades councils, and Socialist parties, would answer most closely to such bodies, as the experience of August 1920 has shown.

Consequently, the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party once again proposes that the National Joint Council should ensure the achievement of the demands contained in its manifesto by issuing a call to organised Labour for the constitution of a network of such local Councils without further delay, and appoint their delegates to a national congress. Once brought into being they should be immediately assembled in a National Congress to elect a National Council and to adopt a National programme.

The Communist Party, with all its organisation and its intimate connections with the advanced sections of the Labour Movement up and down the country, pledges itself to strain its energies to the utmost in order to assist in bringing the Councils of Action into being and rallying around them the entire working class of Great Britain. No differences in theory or ultimate programme must stand in the way of working class unity for action at this decisive hour.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) ALBERT INKPIN,
Secretary.