
Strength of the Two Left Wing Parties [circa Sept. 15, 1919]

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Inquiries have been made as to the membership strength of the Communist Party and the Communist Labor Party. Only an estimate of the strength of each can be given at this time for the exact membership can not be ascertained until both organizations have functioned for some months and then only upon the basis of dues stamp sales.

According to the dues stamp sales for 6 months of this year, the federations which will compose the Communist Party have the following number of members: Russian, 6,500; Ukrainian, 3,500; South Slavic, 3,000; Lithuanian, 6,000; Lettish [Latvian] 1,500; Hungarian, 2,400; Polish, 2,000. Add to this a few thousand English-speaking members which were represented at the Communist Party convention, and the total estimated membership of the Communist Party is about 28,000.

The delegates attending the Communist Labor Party convention represented an English membership mostly. This membership is estimated by states as follows: Arkansas, 500; California, 2,000; Colorado, 500; Delaware, 100; Florida,

200; Illinois, 2,000; Indiana, 1,000; Kansas, 500; Kentucky, 500; Michigan, 150; Minnesota, 800; Missouri, 500; Nebraska, 200; New Jersey, 800; New York, 2,500; Ohio, 3,000; Oregon, 1,500; Rhode Island, 500; Texas, 150; Utah, 500; Washington, 1,500; Virginia, 200; West Virginia, 500. Add to this the greater portion of the German Federation membership, that which is Left Wing, about 5,000; the Italian Federation, 1,000; and the Scandinavian Federation, 3,000, and the membership of the Communist Labor Party equals, if it does not exceed, that of the Communist Party.

We state that an estimate is hard to make at the present time because neither party is organized. For instance, if we are to take the word of the 22 delegates attending the Communist Party convention, mostly English-speaking, who refused all official positions in the Communist Party and stated upon the second last day of the convention [Sept. 6, 1919] that they would not abide by its decisions, then it is altogether probable that the Communist Party will lose a large portion of its English membership as represented in the convention.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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