

Manifesto and Platform

—OF THE—

Federated Labor Party of B.C.

THE FEDERATED LABOR PARTY is organized for the purpose of securing industrial legislation, and the collective ownership and democratic control of the means of wealth production.

Private ownership of the means of wealth production (lands, forests, mines, fisheries, mills and factories), is the basis of the present system of society. The ownership of these natural resources and the machinery of production is vested in a small minority of the people, who, because of this ownership, constitute the real rulers of the country—the ruling class.

This class ownership of the means of life, with the restrictions and appropriation of the fruits of labor necessarily following it, is the root cause of the present insecurity and privation suffered by the working class.

The large majority of the people—the working class—being property less, must obtain the necessities of life through the only channel open to them, i.e., by selling their labor power. The only condition upon which they can do so is that a profit must accrue to the owning class from the process. Profits for the few and not the needs of the many is the motive underlying production.

The farmer, despite the semblance of ownership which appears from the occupancy of the land and the machinery with which he works it, is in approximately the same position as the propertyless wage-worker. The wage-worker sells his labor power direct to the capitalist class for a price (wages), and that which he produces belongs to the party employing him or her. The farmer converts his labor power into other commodities, (wheat, oats, etc.), which he must dispose of in the open market, having little or no control over the disposal of his product. The result of his toil passes into the hands of the capitalist class in rent, interest and profit just as surely and completely as does the product of the labor of the wage-worker, which he (the wage-worker) leaves in the mill or factory when the whistle blows at the end of the day.

The production and distribution of the things essential to our needs has reached a stage of development in which it requires the active cooperation of practically all the productive forces in society; social production has superseded individual production. Our ultimate objective is, therefore, the collective ownership of things collectively produced and collectively used. The need and well-being of society must be the regulator of production.

The present ruling class maintains its ownership in the means of life and consequent exploitation of the workers through its control of the powers of the state. This present system of government is controlled by the same class which controls the industries and hence is used in their interests. Under these conditions the welfare of the masses is a subordinate consideration.

Realizing this, it logically follows that the working class can not improve their condition in any permanent way until they assume the powers and functions of the state. This can be accomplished in this country by taking advantage of our political privileges and electing working-class representatives to all legislative and administrative bodies. The working class itself must be its own emancipator.

Taking into consideration the international aspect of the development of capitalism and the interdependence of each country upon all other countries for even the partial functioning of the productive forces that obtain to-day, we realize the impossibility of the working class of any one country—even if the entire government was within its control—formulating and carrying out, unaided, a complete programme of socialisation. We therefore pledge our support and cooperation to all groups, of whatever nationality, having similar aims.

The Federated Labor Party will support all legislative measures having for their purpose the betterment of the condition of the working class, but we maintain, that so long as the workers are content to sell their life's energy in the market they must accept the conditions which the fluctuation of that market entails.

The present productive forces of society are quite sufficient to supply our every need and comfort; but the present system of production and appropriation denies to the great mass of the people the bare necessities of life. While the few revel in wealth and luxury, millions are done to death by slow starvation. Knowledge of the cause of this phenomenon is absolutely essential to intelligent action.

Class ownership of the means of production; class appropriation of the social product of labor, is the cause of this denial to the workers of an opportunity to participate in the fruits of their labor.

Collective ownership of the means of production; social appropriation of that which is socially produced, is the only means to end exploitation.

In the foregoing we have given an outline as brief and concise as possible of the basis of present-day society.

The Federated Labor party as a socialist party holds that the difficulties which the working class is laboring under can only be removed by a change in our economic system. For this reason we do not put forward any lengthy list of immediate aims.

By working class we mean all of the people who must labor by hand or by brain and have no other means of support.

The function of the party is to organize and educate the workers along political lines as the surest and safest way to get control of the powers of government. Once having secured that power it will be used to liberate where it is now used to oppress.

Changes come slowly as the people learn slowly and to try and force changes before the mass of the people are ready for them will only defeat the end we have in view.

Before the workers can advance to power they must gain confidence in their own ability as organizers, legislators and administrators; and the best way to create that confidence is by contesting the election to every elective office.

On the platform, around the council table or in the legislature we shall put forward and work for the passing of such reforms as the workers think necessary for the strengthening of their position, but our ultimate goal is the socialist state.

Federated Labor Party of B.C.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I, the undersigned, endorse and subscribe to the furtherance of the declared objects of the Party and agree to be governed by the Constitution thereof.

Name

Address

Phone No. Occupation

Proposed by

Date