
The Lithuanian Socialist Federation

by C.A. Herman

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The Lithuanian Socialist Federation was organized in 1904, and held its first convention in Newark, NJ in May, 1905. The L.S. Federation grew very rapidly, especially after the suppression of the Russian Revolution in 1905 and the following year, when numbers of comrades came to this country.

The Federation in the first years of its existence had some internal struggles with the elements who were brought into it at the time of its formation, but were foreign to the real working class movement. This foreign element, nationalists and anarchists, was sifted out in these struggles.

At the present time the Federation besides its common struggle along with the other socialists of this country against the capitalist system, has to fight other elements present among the Lithuanians themselves. The first of these is the activity of the Lithuanian Roman-Catholic clergy in trying to organize the workers into a federation of its own for the purpose of making them subservient to the exploiting classes; the other is the Lithuanian nationalists who try to becloud the struggle between the exploiters and exploited by

organizing the workers on nationalistic lines for the purpose of obtaining political autonomy or complete independence for Lithuania.

In 1914 the Federation decided by a very small majority to join the Socialist Party, which was done last year. At that time the Federation had over 3,500 members, but at present it has dropped to little over 2,000. The decrease in membership is mostly due to the unemployment which was very evident in the first part of last year, and also partly on account of the increase in dues which was brought about by joining the Socialist Party.

The Federation publishes as its official organ a weekly paper *Kova* (The Struggle), and a monthly magazine *Naujoji Gadyne* (The New Age), devoted to theoretical discussion of scientific socialism. Both are published in Philadelphia, where the Federation's headquarters are.

Besides these, there are one daily in Chicago; one semi-weekly in Brooklyn; two weeklies — one in Boston and the other in Pittsburgh; and one monthly in Worcester, Mass., issued by local socialist cooperative publishing organizations for educational and propaganda work.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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