

LABOR POLITICS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

British Columbia is to hold a Labor Convention April 14 at Kamloops. It was called by District Association No. 6, Western Federation of Miners, in the following words: "We do hereby issue a call for a convention (for political purposes) of delegates from all Trades and Labor Unions, Single Tax Association, Socialist bodies and other reform organizations in the province whose aim is to improve the social condition of the people by the ballot."

Its declared purpose is "to unite and harmonize all labor organizations and reform bodies in the province for purposes of political action.

We note that the B. C. Socialist Party Executive Committee did not feel at liberty to send a delegate without a referendum of the party, but recommended locals to send delegates, with the understanding that they were not to commit the party.

The Vancouver Independent (labor union paper) approves the convention, also the Rossland World, and many unions and independent labor party branches are electing delegates.

It is a good sign that organized labor is coming to see the need of political action. It is also a good sign that the Socialist Executive is unwilling to recognize this convention. Labor must unite at the ballot box, but Socialists cannot unite with it until it accepts the Socialist program. And for this reason: The Socialist has studied the labor problem in the most exhaustive and scientific manner and has discovered the only solution possible. He would be a fool to give up all he has learned and go back to the A B C. The delegates at Kamloops will, most of them, be honest men, honestly seeking a way out of their difficulties. What they ought to do is to take the full uncompromising Socialist position, demanding the abolition of wage-slavery by the wage slaves. Accept no half-way measures. Don't waste valuable time and energy on mere sops which Liberal and Conservative will throw your way. Take the bull by the horns. Demand all you want. Demand the whole loaf and you are far more likely to get the half loaf.

The Socialist platform, printed in another column, is the thing to adopt. Go the B. C. Socialist Party one better and declare for a political party based on the economic class struggle.

Then British Columbia workingmen will be the leaders of the continent.

Cowley speaks on the streets three times a week in Seattle now, and Flannigan is an interested listener.