

Our Left Wing Press

By William Z. Foster

While we are rightfully pointing out the weaknesses of the present trade union movement, the class collaboration policy of the reactionary leaders, the bankruptcy of the socialist party and its complete surrender to Gompers and company, we must pay more attention to the ever-growing number of left wing groups and left wing press.

The latest addition to the left wing press, is the Progressive Shoe and Leather Worker, thus the militants have seven monthly and semi-monthly papers representing national left wing committees in the Building, Clothing, Leather, Metal, Mining, Printing and Railroad industries.

This is the militant rank and file's answer to the Gompers, Lewis, Johnston. Berry class collaboration policy.

The launching of the Progressive Shoe and Leather Worker is a real achievement, when one considers the terrific chaotic condition of the Leather industry, and the inroads that the secessionist movement had made there. That its first issue should deal almost exclusively with amalgamation is natural and can very well be understood. For years the burning question was dualism versus amalgamation, and now we see the end of the dualistic program and the gradual merging of the unions into one organization covering the entire industry, nothing is more natural than to see the Progressive Shoe and Leather Worker lay em-

phasis on the question of amalgamation.

Michael T. Berry in his article giving a short and concise history of the shoe and leather workers' efforts to organize and how they had tried the craft form of unionism from 1857 until the present, showing how miserably it had failed to cement labors' forces, the dire necessity for amalgamation and drawing the further lesson. "The way out of the trouble lies in a united front on both the political and industrial fields, the battle must be fought out on lines forcibly determined by all the factors of the class struggle and not on lines of class collaboration."

Amalgamation is only the means and not the end in itself. With the solidifying of the ranks of the work-

ers in the shoe and leather industry on the industrial field, must come the united front of the exploited workers and farmers on the political field, the understanding of the revolutionary significance of the present agitation for the united front of labor, and the relationship of immediate demands to the revolutionary struggle.

We greet the Progressive Shoe and Leather Worker as another link in the left wing chain that is binding the militants together in the struggle against Imperialism on the one hand, and reaction within the ranks of labor on the other. We greet you as the class conscious expression of the shoe and leather workers. You are the seventh nail in the coffin of reaction. On with the work.

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