

# Fiasco of Fake Labor Party in New York

By ISRAEL AMTER

The fake Labor Party in New York went down in a smashing defeat on November 7th. This party, made up of Socialists and Farmer-Laborites, received a vote far smaller than that cast for the Socialists in 1920 and less than that polled in the off-year of 1921. In 1920, when Debs ran as presidential candidate, the party received 131,954 votes in New York City; in 1921, the mayoralty candidate received 83,209 votes. In 1922, the COMBINED party polled only 62,435 votes, which is nearly 70,000 behind 1920 and more than 20,000 behind 1921. Surely there was never a better year for the concentration of sentiment on REAL labor issues than this year. And yet the combined party completely failed!

In 1916, the Socialist Party polled nearly 1,000,000 votes. That was a year of enthusiasm—in the midst of war in Europe, when the necessity of the revolutionary workers of America standing firm began to crystallize.

In 1920, after the party had committed treason, had failed to keep its resolutions and had expelled the revolutionists; and after women's suffrage had become a fact, so that the vote should have DOUBLED, the vote remained practically stationary.

In 1921, in the midst of the worst wave of unemployment that the country has experienced, the vote decreased again; and this year, after the worst labor struggles that the American workers have passed thru and after the most brutal manifestation of force, violence and contempt for law and rights of the workers by the government the Socialist Party combined with the Farmer Labor Party of New York suffered another extensive decrease in support by the workers.

What are the reasons for the fiasco of the Labor Party?

The initial reason is the nature of one of its components—the Socialist Party, its aims and program.

The second reason is the composition of the Labor Party.

The third reason is the purpose embodied in the formation of this Labor Party.

The Socialist Party was the pre-dominating element in the Labor Party. Organized as a revolutionary party, this party to-day is utterly discredited in the eyes of the workers. It is useless to go into the history of betrayals by the leaders of the S. P. The diminution of votes cast for the party is adequate testimony to the vanishing faith the workers have in this party. As a talking machine, it vies with the other capitalist parties in making promises, thus lulling the workers to sleep, instead of awakening their fighting spirit. It is a party made up chiefly of lawyers, doctors, journalists and petty shop keepers, whose aims are all petty bourgeois. Reforms under the present system, with the capitalist as the overlord!

A large part of the working class is beginning to recognize the necessity of modern forms of organization. They are demanding a transformation of their craft unions into

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industrial unions. The reactionary officialdom of the American Federation of Labor is against this transformation—for obvious reasons. It will diminish their power. It will reduce the number of jobs. It will mean a change of form in order to increase efficiency—and to increase the fighting power of the organization. Sam Gompers is against it.

For 16 years, the American Federation of Labor has pursued the fateful policy of "rewarding the friends and punishing the enemies" of labor. As a result, the workers to-day face the worst form of military autocracy in America! This may be regarded as either the reward or punishment of labor for its stupid policy. The A. F. of L. officials, with their non-partisan political policy have kept the workers from independent political action, which alone has any outlook of affording the workers relief or protection from the assaults of the capitalist class. And if ever before, the workers needed protection of this kind, not only against the employers, but also against the government which has functioned openly in favor of the capitalists, it was this year. On Sept. 1, when Daugherty procured his infamous injunction, Sam Gompers recognized it—so did the Socialist Party. But then the merry game of "rewarding and punishing" went on.

How ludicrous this game may become may be seen in the Ohio campaign. The American Federation of Labor "rewarded" Senator Pomeroy with its endorsement. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers "put its money" on Simon Fess. A splendid spectacle of organized labor fighting against organized labor for the election, in either case, of a capitalist senator! Each organization called the candidate endorsed by the other organization an "enemy of labor." Fess, the "enemy" assailed by the A. F. of L., won out.

Sam Gompers is against an independent Labor Party—and hence against the Labor Party that "also ran" in New York. He took pains to go to New York to procure the endorsement of the Central Trades and Labor Assembly for the Democratic ticket! Not a member of Socialist Party or a supporter of the

Labor Party dared to oppose him. Sam Gompers strewed a few "endorsements", which quieted the animosity of the Socialists. He endorsed Meyer London—and also his Democratic opponent. He scattered a few more "endorsements"—and peace reigned in the camp of the Socialists.

The rank and file of the A. F. of L. is in revolt against the officialdom of the organization. Large international bodies, state federations of labor and central labor bodies have come out for amalgamation—against which Gompers thundered in Chicago. International labor organizations will assemble Dec. 11th in Cleveland to discuss the question of independent political action by the workers—against which Gompers has hurled all his anger.

The Socialist Party, supposedly representing the revolutionary, the advanced workers of the country, had not a word to say against Gompers and his clique nor against his treacherous policy of keeping the workers from action. Just as the S. P. carried the favor of the Socialist officials at the head of the independent and progressive unions—and lost the confidence of the rank and file, so today it is also catering to the favor of the reactionary, yellow bureaucracy at the head of the A. F. of L. and cannot gain any support from the rank and file of the A. F. of L. A few endorsements silenced them. Gompers, Hillquit, Schlesinger—who can tell the difference today?

The second reason for the fiasco of the Labor Party was its composition. The Labor Party was composed of the Socialist Party, the Farmer-Labor Party and a few labor unions. The initiative in its formation was taken by the political parties. The Socialist Party membership in New York is very small. The Farmer-Labor Party has practically no membership at all in New York. It is made up of a few self-styled leaders, who are hypocritical and mean.



Will Sweep Clean