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EDITORIAL

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A DISCUSSION has started in the press of the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party, that is an A No. 1 sign of the times, and of the success of unterrified Socialist Labor Party agitation. Elsewhere in this issue will be found the detailed facts on the subject, taken from the Dayton, O., *New Nation*. In a nutshell this is the discussion:

Fifteen questions, gathered from the persistently pertinent questions that the S.L.P. has been putting, are picked out and quoted approvingly, and the discussor closes with the answer that the S.L.P. is right and no Socialist should voluntarily support the A.F. of L.

The answer—does not the discussor realize it?—immediately raises another, which may be condensed into a personal one, What on earth keeps you in the so-called Socialist party which in bulk supports and will continue to voluntarily support the A.F. of L.? and what becomes of the one reason that used to be advanced for starting the rival S.P., alias S.D.P.?

Each of the fifteen questions implies an S.L.P. maxim on Trades Unionism. For these maxims the S.L.P. was opposed by the unsophisticated, who believed the lies set afloat by the sophisticated knaves. These lies have worn out their legs. Originally intended to wear out the S.L.P., they now become boomerangs. The S.L.P. being found right, the unsophisticated who were misled into joining a wrong organization, are now confronted by the question not so much, why not join the A.L.U., but why not drop the S.P. alias S.D.P. along with its inseparable master, the A.F. of L., and join the S.L.P.?

We imagine we hear voices say: "The whole S.P. alias S.D.P. is now ruled by the A.F. of L." We do not deny the fact. It is so, a portion of the S.P., alias S.D.P. is free from the incubus of the A.F. of L., but that portion is a minority, the majority is

dominated by the A.F. of L. and consequently the A.F. of L. exercises at least an indirect pressure upon the free minority.

The only thing that can stand in the way of this fact being appreciated by the minority is the hope that they will be able actually to talk or reason the dominant majority into dropping the A.F. of L.—a delusion. The minority followed a delusion when it helped to set up the rival of the S.L.P.; the minority has by this time found out its delusion. Should not the lesson guard them against getting out of one hole by forthwith dropping into another? Should they not by this time have found out the truth of the principle that material interests control principles? Can anyone who has thoroughly appropriated that truth fail to see that the *Volkszeitung* Corporation crowd along with their English poodle, *The Worker*, can not exist without the support of the A.F. of L. labor fakirs, who sell out the workingmen, as the brewery fakirs of the East did, and thereby get for them the advertisements and other pay from pool brewers and other labor-skinners? Can any fail to see that the Tobin swindle on the workers is the breath in the nostrils of James F. Carey? Is anyone so blind not to perceive that without Max Hayes prostitutes herself to the fakirs of the Int'l Typographical Union in particular and the other labor fakirs in general, she would go under? And so forth and so on. All these worthies, it is true, play the role of “opposition to His Majesty”; but the opposition of the Liberals in Parliament never goes further than against the personnel of the Cabinet, never against the monarchic system of the government itself. And so with these blatant “opportunists” in the A.F. of L. Their opposition is entirely personal. They may oppose Gompers but never Gomperism; they may oppose Mitchell but never Mitchellism—they live on corruption, consequently, while they rant about “independent political action” they stand by and countenance the acts by which labor is kept in ignorance and lashed to the chariot wheel of capitalism; not the least of their services to capitalism being to squirt dirt upon the S.L.P.;—all of which is Gomperism, or Mitchellism, or Tobinism. That dominant majority is as irredeemable as the small property holder, even more so.

The “discussion” in the S.L.P. is a welcome sign of the times. Socialism, weak in numbers and opportunities to be heard, could never progress were it not for capitalism that furnishes the economic temperature for the Socialist seed. Just so

with the Socialist Labor Party. Its existence would actually be a thing of the past, as the silly S.P., alias S.D.P., editors have been claiming, were it not for combined action of the capitalists and the dominant majority of the S.P. and S.D.P. which by their conduct create the political atmosphere for S.L.P. soundness to assert itself.

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