

OUR CANDIDATES

FOR PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER was born at Taunton, Massachusetts, Feb. 25, 1881. Father, Irish. Mother English. One of 23 children.

Went to work at 10 years of age, after only three years of schooling. Has been successively a sculptor's apprentice, type founder, factory worker, steam engineer, steam fitter, railroad brakeman, railroad fireman, logger, salesman, street car motorman, longshorman, farmer, laborer, deep water sailor, and many other occupations. Principal trade at present is railroad car inspector. is a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

Joined the socialist movement in 1900. Remained in the right wing for a few years, then began moving toward the left. In 1909 was expelled with the left wing of the Socialist Party by reactionary national socialist bureaucracy in the State of Washington. Refused to join that organization again. Instead, he joined the Industrial Workers of the World, and took an active part in the Spokane free speech fight, being arrested in connection therewith. In 1910, went to Europe, spending 13 months there studying the labor movement in France, Germany, Austria and other countries. Was a delegate from the I. W. W. to the Budapest meeting, 1910, of the International Trade Unions Secretariat, and contested the seat of the A. F. of L. delegate to that body, but unsuccessfully.

During the European trip Foster became a convinced syndicalist. Also came to the conclusion that the I. W. W. policy of dual unionism was wrong. Came back to America and travelled over the country trying to induce the I. W. W. and other revolutionaries to rejoin the trade union movement. Took part in the formation of the Syndicalist League of North America in 1911, an organization to organize the militant minority in the trade unions. This organization carried on considerable activity, but died in 1914 because the revolutionary movement was entirely taken up with the dual union idea. Helped, also, to organize the International Trade Union Educational League in 1916. This died for the same reason as its predecessor.

During the war period was active in the trade unions, being secretary of the committee that organized 200,000 packing house workers in 1917. After this, in 1918, was secretary of the committee that organized 250,000 steel workers and conducted the great 1919 strike of 400,000 steel workers.

In the spring of 1921, made a trip to Russia, attending the congresses of the Communist International and the Red International of Labor Unions. Upon return, declared himself a Communist and has since been active in the Communist movement. Is now secretary of the Trade Union Educational League, which was organized in the fall of 1920, before he went to Russia and the official organ of which, the Labor Herald, is the leading magazine directing the work of the Communists and left wing generally in the unions and thruout industry.

Foster has written a number of pamphlets and books, having acquired an education by self-effort, including the principal European languages. Among his works are "Syndicalism," "Trade Unionism, the Road to Freedom," "The Great Steel Strike," "The Russian Revolution," "The Revolutionary Crisis of 1918-1921 in Germany, England, Italy and France," "The Railroaders' Next Step," "Amalgamation," "The Bankruptcy of the American Labor Movement." In respect to Foster's literary ability, H. L. Mencken, the leading figure among America's literary intelligentsia, has said that "Foster is the only labor leader in America who is able to write good English."

In January 1924, Foster was elected to the position of Chairman of the Workers Party. He is still occupying that office.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

BENJAMIN GITLOW, member of the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America, is American born and is now 32 years old. He has been an active member of the trade union movement since 1913, first in the Retail Clerks' Union of New York and since 1918 in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Gitlow was president of the clerks' union for two years and in 1914 was one of the most vigorous participants in the big unemployment demonstrations in New York, which were chiefly under I. W. W. leadership. He organized the first of these demonstrations, which was composed solely of working class women.

In 1910 Gitlow joined the Socialist Party. In 1917, on an anti-war platform and in opposition to conscription, he was elected as a Socialist to the New York state legislature for one year. In 1918 he associated himself as the only parliamentary representative with the Left Wing of the Socialist Party. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the Left Wing at its first conference in New York City and later served on the Executive Council of the national Left Wing.

Gitlow conducted an energetic fight in the Left against the wrong tactics of the Russian Federation group led by Nicholas Hourwich. The English speaking elements in the organization supported Gitlow. John Reed, who died in Moscow, became associated with Gitlow at this time and they were in the group that organized the Communist Labor Party.

In 1918-19 Gitlow became connected with the Revolutionary Age, official organ of the Left Wing, and with the Voice of Labor, edited then by John Reed.

On November 8, 1919, Gitlow was one of the first Communists arrested and was the first in the United States to be placed on trial for being a Communist. He was sentenced to ten years, of which he served three in prison and is now out on bond pending an appeal. He is under indictment in New York state on another charge and is under indictment in Michigan.

During his life in the revolutionary movement of America, Gitlow has been connected with both parts, the economic and the political. He has served on the Central Executive of the Communist Labor Party; been a member of the Central Executive of the Communist Party; and of the Workers Party when the Communist Party combined with the Workers Party.

In May, 1923, Gitlow took over the editing of the Jewish Daily Freiheit when the Central Executive of the party assumed control of the paper to save it from destruction and to prevent a serious split in the Jewish Federation. The paper was saved and the split avoided.

The Jewish Daily Freiheit exceeds in circulation by many thousands the circulation of any other paper of the party. Under Gitlow's editorship for the Central Executive Committee, the circulation increased 7,000.

and loyal fight against American capitalism and the menace of LaFolletteism that is being made by the Workers Party of America. It is the only political labor organization in the United States which stands the ground and fights without compromise against LaFolletteism dominating the labor movement.

We have also taken note of the fact that the Workers Party has decided to place in the field its own presidential ticket, thus taking the lead in the struggle against LaFolletteism and for working class political independence. We see in this action of the Workers Party the only guarantee that the idea of a farmer-labor party in the United States will not be totally extinguished and that when the time comes the masses will again rally to the united front banner which still remains the only solution of the difficulties of the oppressed masses.

Because of the above, the National Executive Committee of the National