

FARMER-LABOR OF PHILA. FOR FOSTER-GITLOW

Philadelphia Unionists Flay LaFollette

By ABRAM JAKIRA.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 3.—

After a considerable discussion the candidates of the Workers Party were endorsed by a conference of the local Farmer-Labor Party held Thursday night, July 31st, in the Machinists Temple. Those who participated in the discussion pointed out that the workers can have nothing in common with La Follette and Wheeler who are being backed by millionaires as Frank A. Vanderlip, the banker and Rudolph Spreckles, the sugar king of California.

The conference did not have to go far for facts to be convinced that the LaFollette movement means suicide to the Farmer-Labor Party movement. The Pennsylvania State Farmer-Labor Party is one of the victims of the LaFollette onslaught.

The record of both William Z. Foster and Benjamin Gitlow was brought to light by some of the delegates who had the opportunity to see those two men in action.

The conference also decided to continue its work as a local Farmer-Labor Party and elected Andrew W. Pitt of the Tapestry Carpet Workers Union as its permanent president in place of Adolph Gersch who resigned because of the fact that he was leaving town in the near future.

The statement adopted unanimously by the conference follows in full:

"It has been and still is the aim of
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the Local Farmer-Labor Party to unite the workers of Philadelphia for Independent Political Action. It was our hope that a great National Farmer-Labor Party will be the outcome of the St. Paul and Cleveland Conventions held during the months of June and July.

"We learn, however, that the Farmer-Labor Party movement has been betrayed and prostituted by the so-called Conference For Progressive Political Action. By its endorsement of the independent candidacy of Senator LaFollette it has completely surrendered to the two old capitalist parties.

"The LaFollette movement is not a working class movement, and is calculated to completely obscure the issue of Independent Political Action. It is a movement of small business, manufacturers, bankers and rich farmers. The working class has nothing to gain by supporting the small exploiters against their more powerful rivals.

LaFollette Danger.

"The action of the Pennsylvania State Conference for Progressive Political Action held in Harrisburg, July 21, and attended to by a few hand-picked and self appointed "delegates" shows clearly that the LaFollette movement is a big danger to the Farmer-Labor Party movement of this country. A motion to run LaFollette in this state on the Farmer-Labor Party ticket was voted down. Furthermore, the Harrisburg conference decided not to nominate an independent State ticket, but to indorse various candidates of the old capitalist parties. The Harrisburg conference thus decided to continue the old outworn policy of 'reward your friends and punish your enemies.'

Foster and Gitlow.

"Against this petty bourgeois movement of LaFollette there are the outstanding figures of William Z. Foster and Benjamin Gitlow, the candidates of the Workers Party, whose true working class character no one can deny.

"The Workers Party has for the last two years carried on and still continues to carry on a vigorous campaign for the formation of a truly working class Farmer-Labor Party. It is at present the only political labor organization which refused to betray the working class of this country and which struggles against LaFolletteism dominating the labor movement.

"The Second Conference of the Farmer-Labor Party at Philadelphia therefore approves the action taken by the National Executive Committee of the Farmer-Labor Party formed at St. Paul in indorsing the candidates of the Workers Party and pledges itself to support in every way possible the campaign and the candidates of the Workers Party and calls upon all workers of Philadelphia to do likewise.