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EDITORIAL

A SUMMER WEIGHT “LABOR PARTY.”

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THE mayoralty campaign is growing warmer, and its nascent heat causes the “labor party” to sprout and luxuriate. The “labor party” this year does not differ essentially from the “labor party” of past years. It is early in the field, and it will be early to leave it. The gentle rain does not fall all days, and even the wellsprings of the politician must dry up at times. Therefore, though the “labor party” may bud, it never blooms.

This time it is called the “Trades Union Political League,” and Mr. Philip Weinseimer is the president of it. He has issued a statement, and in that statement he demands that the city have a “business administration.” The last long suit of the decaying middle class has been and is this “business administration.” If the middle class leaves its little store or its little property out over night and is caught by the trust, it rises plaintively and asks for a “business administration.” And the “labor party,” true to its mission as a tail to the middle class kite, also asks for a “business administration.”

But that alone would not appeal to the working class, so the fakirs, the Weinseimers et al., who head the move, tag on the demands for the “government ownership” of a few things. In this way they seek to cover up their real attitude. But as “business administrations” are not to be had for the asking, and as the working class does not bite at the rest of the bait, a time comes when it is necessary to close shop and sell out to the best possible advantage.

The labor fakir who deals in politics is, in this matter as in several other matters, much like the commercial shark who makes a specialty of starting in business so that he can be bought out. He seeks to levy tribute from those who are already in the business of piracy. He is like the smaller fry who follow in the wake of the recognized genius in the art of stealing, and who either threaten to place obstacles in his way unless they are bought off, or who content themselves with picking up what he leaves, or with what he throws at them.

The labor fakir in politics partakes somewhat also of the political tout. He

scurries the field, and gives "tips" for a consideration, or he tells large stories of being able to fix the starters. From this he expects that he will gain what he could not gain were he to enter the field himself, and fight his own battle.

But the business has declined of late. The "good services" of scamps and crooks are felt by the larger scamps and crooks to be unwelcomed interference. So the "labor party" is no longer a good investment. More must be offered than heretofore. Large promises must be made, and larger threats must be voiced before the attention of the Democrat and Republican politicians is gained. They realize that there is but one thing to fear, and that is the vote of the Socialist Labor Party. It is the dark horse in the race, and it is all the more feared because the fact is understood that its victory is inevitable, that each time it moves at a swifter pace, with a surer tread, and that the others will be finally crushed beneath it.

That ever-present fear in the minds of the politicians gives the "labor party" its last standing ground. They would go to any extreme to rid themselves of the fear, and so the Weinseimers can still play the game they played years ago, but at less profit and with greater danger to themselves. Their work in the past has been ineffective. They have seen the Socialist Labor Party slowly but surely overtaking the others. They have seen their pet parties go down never to rise again. And in that fact they see also their own disastrous finish.

The "Trades Union Political League" by any other name would smell as bad. It would be just as impotent. It would be just as much of a decoy duck. The Socialist Labor Party cannot be swerved or pocketed by any such move, and the organization of such a "labor party" at this time proves not only the fatal idiocy of the capitalist class, but it proves also its blind weakness.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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