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EDITORIAL

Snubbed in the House of Its Friends.

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Socialists are not of those who allow themselves to be stuffed with noise. As such, we consider the recent gathering in Kansas City Mo., of “delegates to the A.F. of L. convention” to deserve but little notice. The “convention,” indeed, would like to be taken seriously and made much of; that is in line with its purposes, to wit, to advertise its shining lights to the capitalist politicians as “leaders of labor,” and—get jobs in consideration of their services. We know, however, that it is “waning moonshine”; once, indeed, did the workers of America look to it with respect and hope, and felt to be a part of it; that, thanks to the class-conscious education and hammer blows that the Socialist Labor party and its sister the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance have been spreading and dealing right and left, is no longer the case; how far the masses have been taken from those fakirs is well proven by their recent experiences at holding public meetings in Kansas City; while within the “convention,” fakirdom ruled the roost, and thus seemed to represent the majority of the workers, outside of the “convention,” the truth that they represent nothing was made clear; the “majority” of the “convention” could only get meetings of 28 or 30 people on the outside, while the minority of the “convention,” at the mass meeting it held under auspices of the Socialist Labor party, filled large halls to overflowing. Similar, only increasingly so, has been the experience of late years, proving beyond cavil that the fakirs are representing a steadily waning constituency, and their pure and simpledom is indeed a poor, old stranded wreck, while the masses are turning to us. Nevertheless, there is one thing that happened at this blessed “convention” that is worthy of note: the way that bogus Socialist party variously called Social Democracy and Democratic Socialist was treated.

At the “convention” there were several delegates of that bogus party; economically and politically they are of the flesh and bone of the other fakirs. These “Socialist” delegates has but one object—scuttle the S.L.P.; Amen, was the feeling that thrilled through their fakir compeers. In order to do that, the former introduced a resolution that called for “united political action on the part of the workers upon class lines,” and they made it quite clear that it was introduced not in the interest of the S.L.P., but in

the interest of the bogus, armories-to-capitalist-voting “Socialist” concern. One would imagine that such a resolution, presented under such auspices, would be jumped at by the other fakirs. Well, they did not; on the contrary, they jumped on it with both feet. The language and tenet of the resolution, being pirated from the S.L.P., was soundly Socialist; the animal instinct of the assembled fakirs told them that it could not be supported without being an endorsement of the S.L.P.; and that would be to cut the market for jobs from under their own feet. Accordingly, not only was the resolution rejected, but it was rejected upon a series of speeches that snubbed by wholly ignoring the bogus party of Tobin, the proposer thereof, and limited itself to bestowing its compliments upon the S.L.P. and the S.L.P. alone.

Indeed, the United States, broad though its area be, is too narrow a confine to contain more than one bona fide Socialist party. That party is the S.L.P., it has earned its place as such, is known to be such, and no other party, to whatever extent it may pirate our name or platform, will ever be looked upon as anything but humbug.

The instinct of the assembled fakirs in Kansas City was unerring, so unerring that, notwithstanding their full sympathy with the real objects of the Tobin-Carey party, they, its friends, snubbed it roundly.

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