

The "Socialists" and the Elections

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.

Under the pressure of the terrific unemployment, slashing wage cuts and inhuman speed-up a storm of working class struggle is brewing in the United States. The gigantic March 6 unemployment demonstration and the growing wave of strikes against wage cuts are signals of the coming upheavals.

The employers, keenly aware of the danger to them, are using extraordinary means to avert it. The first front in their strategy is to utilize their fascist and social-fascist agents of the A. F. of L. and the socialist party to hinder the growing solidarity of the workers. Their aim is to prevent the Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League from developing effective mass organization and leadership among the wakening workers.

Boss Tools.

The capitalists are now rigorously using their reliable tool, the A. F.

Wm. Z. Foster



Jailed by Tammany with Minor, Amter and Raymond, members of the Unemployed Delegation.

L. leaders. These fakers are busier than ever minimizing the extent of the industrial crisis, supporting Hoover's quack unemployment remedies, putting across wage cuts for the employers, supporting republican and democratic candidates, leading the war attacks against the Soviet Union, openly fighting the "Red Menace," and etc. They are the faithful servants of their masters, the bosses.

But the most significant feature of the situation is the intense use the employers are making of the socialist Party. To an extent never before seen in this country they are supporting it. In the New York elections, for example, such reactionary papers as the New York Times and the Telegram are openly supporting Norman Thomas and speaking highly of the socialist ticket generally. And the "Fish Commission," "Red" hunters par excellence, placed the government stamp of approval upon the social-

(Continued on Page Three)

FOSTER TELLS OF THE ROLE OF THE SOCIALISTS

Calls For a Militant Fight

(Continued From Page One.)

ist party by drastically ruling out all attacks on that body during the Fish Commission "investigation."

They Need the S. P.

The capitalist give this open support to the socialist party because they realize the insufficiency of the A. F. of L. with its weak organization and openly fascist policies, it cannot effectively control the rapidly radicalizing masses. It needs reinforcement. The socialist party is thoroughly fitted for this, with a program basically the same as that of the A. F. of L., but decorated with deceptive radical phrases. The employers count upon this pseudo-radicalism of the socialist party to deceive the masses, to demoralize their forces, and to keep them tied to a program of waiting.

It's All Bunk.

The employers are not fooled by the socialist party chatter about socialism. How could they fear a party with the Rev. Norman Thomas at the head of it? Have they not seen in practice the active working alliance of Hillquit, Woll and Company? Did they not see the German socialist party shoot the German revolution to pieces and save European capitalism? Do they not now see the MacDonald "socialist" government murder Indian revolutionaries and defend British imperialism, as the New York Times says, even more effectively than the conservative government could have done? Do they not see the worldwide socialist party war propaganda against the Soviet Union? They recognize it and use the socialist party as a capitalist tool.

Significantly, it is exactly in New York, where the demonstrations of the unemployed are the most militant and where the Communist influence is the greatest that the employers make the most active use of the socialist party. There the bosses have most assiduously cultivated the "socialist" unions in the needle trades; there they are most systematically building up the socialist party. The socialist party and its Muste group in the A. F. of L. unions is the most insidious and dangerous menace to the revolutionary organization and struggle of the workers.

Win the Masses.

In the coming elections this menace becomes especially keen. The socialists, with their capitalist support and lip-service to the slogans of unemployed insurance, etc. are making great efforts to draw under their political control the masses of workers who refuse to follow the A. F. of L. line of voting for the candidates of the republican and democratic parties. In substance the capitalists, by luring disinterested workers to their third party, the socialist party, hope to keep them from the dreaded Communist Party organization and leadership.

There is a real danger that masses of workers, deeply discontented at the intolerable economic conditions, will walk into the trap of the socialist party thinking that thereby they are dealing a blow at their class enemies. But little experienced politically, they will be deceived by the radical phrase-mongering of the socialist party. It would be a serious error to ignore or under-estimate the socialist party in this campaign.

Militant Action.

The situation is one requiring the most militant action by our Party and all sympathizing organizations in the election campaign. The workers are ready for action. They will try during the election to find ways to give vent to their fighting spirit and to bring forward their demands. In order to place ourselves at the head of the masses, to organize them, for the election campaign and for the other great impending struggles, we must greatly intensify our election activities. And above all, in every stage of the fight, we must not fail to keep our fire centered on that most insidious capitalist tool and class enemy of the workers, the socialist party.