

Routing the Communists

By JAY LOVESTONE

Two years ago it was the national indoor sport of the leading correspondents and editors to talk themselves blue and their readers sick over supposed defeats and collapses of the Soviet government. Lenin was being buried daily. Moscow was in the hands of and redeemed by czarist pogrom agents and hooligans every other hour.

Soon the stuff went stale. Now it is the American Communists who are being routed daily by the same gentry. William Hard, who is simultaneously the correspondent of the cleanest liberal weekly and one of the dirtiest reactionary dailies, is the latest one to enter the lists against the Communists. The occasion is the rather auspicious one of LaFollette's fit of rage and eleventh-hour confession of his own incompetency and bankruptcy in the present political crisis.

Mr. Hard wants his readers to believe that LaFollette's wordy onslaught on the Communists has spelled the doom of the Workers Party and has tolled the knell of the St. Paul convention. This is simply another case where the wish is father to the thought. LaFollette's outburst will hurt him more than anyone else. His open admission that he still thinks it possible for the Democratic and Republican parties to serve anybody but the reactionary big capitalist interests is a clear note of disillusionment for many of the workers and farmers who, prior to this decla-

ration, might still have had some faith in him. The Communists, who have been the steel rod in the whole farmer-labor movement the country over, who fought for the organization of a virile political party of the exploited masses against the capitalists while many self-styled progressives and so-called liberals were still devoid of courage to take a stand or were still attempting to wash the oil off the backs of the donkey and the elephant, have time and again told the poor farmers that LaFollette is unworthy of their trust and that he would double-cross them and leave them in the lurch at the last moment.

What the Communists have said

KU KLUX SHRINERS WAX POETICAL OVER ABSENCE OF WIVES

KANSAS CITY, June 3.—Thousands of Shriners are here for a convention, and they are having a gay time. The streets are clogged with parading Masons of various degrees. A prize was offered for the best convention song, and the following from Ku Klux Indianapolis took the prize:

"There ain't no wives with us,

"There ain't no wives with us;

"There may be wives with some of
you guys,

"But there ain't no wives with us."

would happen has happened. LaFollette, who will attend the same convention with Coolidge, Lodge, Daugherty and "Apricots" McLean of Teapot Dome fame, has severed himself from the great mass of farmers and workers who are bent on organizing a class farmer-labor party in order to give real battle to the exploiters. The step that LaFollette has taken is, fortunately for the workers, politically suicidal to him and will only enhance the prestige of the Communists who have always warned the working class and the dispossessed farmers against trusting him. The fact that LaFollette was compelled to make an attack on the Communists the very heart and body of his first frank words on the political crisis now confronting the country speaks volumes for the influence and following won by the Communists. The Socialist Party at its height never attained such importance or that much prestige and trust amongst the masses to be the very source and center of a political fight involving such fundamental and vital changes in the class relations of the land.

LaFollette's throwing overboard his last possible excuse for posing as a champion of the working and farming masses by attacking the St. Paul convention is only a tribute to the growing prowess of the Communists and to the rising class-consciousness of the exploited workers and expropriated farmers.