

Even Maurer Means Nothing

By I. ANTEK.

CLEVELAND, Sept. 4.—Jim Maurer, vice-presidential candidate of the socialist party, was booked to speak in Cleveland on August 18. The picnic at which he was to speak was arranged by the Jewish "branch" of the socialist party in Cleveland. Socialism is so respectable that the picnic was announced at the meeting of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, one of the most reactionary central labor bodies in the country, which prides itself on knowing how to deal with the militants and progressives. Notice went in the "Cleveland Citizen," edited by that old-time socialist, Max Hayes. What more could one want? Surely a respectable crowd would appear at Lakeland to hear Jim Maurer.

Did not Jim have enough of the "red" about him to attract even the militant, the Communist? Had he not been in the Soviet Union and made fine speeches over there—and even over here when he returned? And Maurer had not yet been in Cleveland. Surely a good crowd would gather to hear him—the "vice-presidential" of the United States.

But it was all miscalculated. To

be sure Jim did not come. Perhaps some of the gang knew that he would not appear, but for the sake of success, the upper guys would not design it. How would it look if the picnic grounds were empty—although Jim Maurer, one time president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor and socialist candidate, was announced to speak? Surely in Cleveland there is enough "socialism" to make a successful picnic.

But it didn't work. The "masses" did not know that Maurer was not coming—but the masses didn't care whether he came or not. Two hundred people gathered at Lakeland and sat around disgusted that Maurer did not appear. Probably even the management of the picnic did not know that he would not come to Cleveland, for they provided no other speaker.

Earlier in the season the socialists had a picnic, and Sharts, candidate for governor, spoke. He loved his audience, till at the end of his speech hardly a handful was listening.

Thus the "message" of the socialist party attracts and interests the workers. The socialist party is played out as far as the working class is concerned.