

# The C. P. P. A. Drops the S. P. in Toledo

By MAX SHACHTMAN.

EVER since, if not before, the speech of Charlie Dawes, in which he attacked the LaFollette ticket as being supported by the allegedly red socialists, the Wisconsin senator has been doing his best to prove that he is firmly opposed to any and all things radical.

Dawes, it will be remembered, attacked LaFollette some time ago on that basis, and repeated it in his Iowa speech the other day by referring to him as "LaFollette, behind whom is massed a heterogeneous combination of the forces opposed to the existing order of things in this country, the largest portion of which are the socialists, flying the Red Flag."

## LaFollette's Antics.

Leaving aside for a moment the fact that Dawes doesn't know what he is talking about when he says the S. P. is the largest portion of the senator's support, it is obvious to anyone who has been following the verbal antics of LaFollette that he has been doing his damndest to wipe from his fair escutcheon the stain of radicalism.

Now the LaFollette gang is taking more concrete steps towards eliminating the socialist appendix. The S. P. which was simply tickled to death over the fact that it was at last in contact with respectable people who were running a real big show, has pulled a sort of a boner on a small scale.

Many months ago, the Hillquitters were impolitely kicked out of the New York state conference for progressive political action at Albany, by the labor fakers in control. And it was only by pressure brought to bear from the center that the New York bunch took the socialists back into their expansive bosoms, will gall in their hearts, ready to pull the same stunt at the first opportunity.

## They Crowded Too Soon.

The S. P. began to point with pride. They were an accepted part of the "progressive movement." But they laid their egg without even building a chicken coop.

The news has just come that in Toledo, Ohio, the S. P. has been gently but firmly ousted from the C. P. P. A. The labor skates have dumped the socialists back into the can.

It happened thusly:

The Toledo C. P. P. A., controlled by rabid labor bureaucrats, indorsed, together with LaFollette and Wheeler, the candidacy of General Isaac R. Sherwood, for re-election to Congress. At the county convention where Sherwood was nominated, the Independent Progressives—which is the local monicker of the C. P. P. A.—discovered that the S. P. had nominated by petition one of their members for the office of congressman on the ticket of the Independent Progressives. The S. P. had slipped in first, nominating their man, Thomas C. Devine, (a war jingo incidentally), before the indorsement for Sherwood had come down

to the local fakers from headquarters in Washington.

## S. P. Is Dumped.

Did this embarrass the S. P.? Not for a minute! Did it embarrass the local fakers? Go to! Amongst them was Victor Gauthier, who had just practiced expulsions in his own organization by kicking half a dozen Communists out of the Toledo local of the International Association of Machinists. So the S. P. job was simple. It was moved, second, argued and voted that the S. P. be obliged to sever its connection with the C. P. P. A., and that their representative, John Kocinski, who had also been nominated for congress, be ousted from the executive committee.

One of the "progressives" said: "We wouldn't have any socialist party in Toledo if it were not for the Toledo Blade and the republican party. The Blade gives Klotz and his socialist organization of 13 people the first page and headlines on all occasions now and Klotz jumps every time the Blade tells him to." Which doesn't speak well for the S. P.

## The Troublemakers.

Said Walter Guntrup, another LaFolletteite: "If the socialists are not getting paid for what they are doing they are being cheated." And R. P. McManamon, of the railroad brotherhoods, added: "The socialists are trying to perpetrate a fraud on the voters. We cannot afford to be a party to it." And C. A. Stevenson, also of the brotherhoods, made the conclud-

ing statement: "The only way to preserve harmony is to keep out those who bring the discord. Klotz and Bartholomew (local S. P. sharpers) are the authors of this trouble. Let the socialists come clean or get out."

What a comedy when the fakers fall out!

Chairman Gauthier, the red-baiter in his union, ended the onslaught against the socialists by stating that they were certified as Delegates from the residence of Ellis Bartholomew for four organizations that simply did not exist.

Now, contrast this interesting little take with the words of George R. Kirkpatrick, in the official press service of the national office of the S. P. on September 19, 1924:

"Millions of LaFollette-Wheeler club members are now learning how sincere, how loyal, how unselfish, how open-and-above-board the socialists are in their fellowship and eager willingness to do anything—everything—possible to help the plain people build a labor party. . . ."

## Who Knows, George?

Maybe so, George, maybe so; but while this moonshine may be all right for the six dentists and lawyers who are still in the party, it doesn't seem to work with LaFollette and his crowd. Who knows, George, some day just a little while before the November election, LaFollette may play you fellows a dirty trick and kick you out altogether, if only to make "Hell-an'-Maria" Dawes feel good.