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EDITORIAL

## SOLIDIFYING THE LABOR VOTE IN LABOR'S INTERESTS.

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**E**VERY year, as election approaches, certain phenomena occur in the political arena with the regularity of clockwork. These phenomena are always the same in character and purpose; yet, despite this, they deceive the unwary and lead to the undoing of men whom experience should have taught to know better. For this reason these phenomena must be dwelt {dealt?} with as often as they occur, hence this analysis of them.

Among these phenomena is the old, old one presented by a handful of "labor leaders" who organize an "independent labor party" for the alleged purpose of "solidifying the labor vote in labor's interests."

The modus operandi of these "labor leaders" is very simple. With or without the consent of their unions, and very often with no other basis of representation than that afforded by an organization that exists only on paper, these "labor leaders" get together in some obscure locality and form their "independent labor party." At the first glance it would naturally seem that, being an "independent labor party," the next step of these "labor leaders" would be the nomination of "independent labor" candidates. Such is not the case, however, for these "labor leaders" proceed to declare their "independent labor party" will "support candidates for office who give a guarantee of fidelity to labor's interests." In other words, the "independent labor party" of these "labor leaders" is but an adjunct to the two capitalist parties, formed for the purpose of destroying if possible the genuine party of labor, the Socialist Labor Party, "by solidifying the labor vote" in the interests of capital and not in the interests of labor.

That this conclusion is true, an examination of the personality of these "labor leaders" and the results of their "independent labor party" will prove. They are

mainly petty politicians, and are either duly-rewarded hangers-on of the capitalist parties, or disappointed office seekers, who start "independent" movements for the purpose of forcing recognition in the distribution of patronage. They are more bent on securing appointments than they are in advancing the interests of labor. In this many of them succeed. As a result of the formation of their "independent labor party," the coveted appointment is secured by one of these "labor leaders," often to the bitter disappointment of the others, who "squeal" and expose the scheme, or else revive it for their own benefit at the next election.

After the above analysis it becomes apparent that there is only one way of truly solidifying the labor vote in the interests of labor, and that is by organizing the working class economically and politically according to the classconscious lines advocated by the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance and the Socialist Labor Party. Victory will then no longer perch on Capital's brow, but will grace that of Labor.

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