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EDITORIAL

STOCKING THE SHOW WINDOW.

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THE PEOPLE a few days ago called attention to the fact that summer must be near, seeing that that inevitable summer phenomenon in the political atmosphere, the harbingers of a “New Independent Labor Party,” was already in sight. It is now our gratifying privilege to be able to confirm the previous theory. The harbingers of the “New Independent Labor Party” have crystallized fast. The “New Independent Labor Party” was started yesterday. The launching of the ship was done from the stocks of Ledwith Hall. There being no bottle of wine handy to break over the bows of the gallant craft at the christening, the next best thing was done: the presidency at the ceremony was awarded to a member of the Amalgamated Society of Plumbers, a gentleman with the suggestive name of WEINSEIMER.

So, then, summer IS there. Nevertheless, if the theory is right that the approach of the seasons can be told by the periodically recurring rise, decline and fizzle into boodle of “New Independent Labor Parties,” then this other theory may be safely risked, to wit, that the severity of approaching seasons may be foretold each time by the conduct of that year’s “New Independent Labor Party.” Accordingly, the conclusion would be justified that the approaching summer will be mild.

Dropping the simile of a “ship,” and taking up the more applicable one of a “shop,” the first thing always done by the firm that starts a “New Independent Labor Party” is to stock its show-window. This time-honored custom was not neglected this year. The show-window of this year’s “New Independent Labor Party” was promptly stocked with “21 Unions,” and a voting strength to start with of “25,000 members.” This is a very poor display; it is a symptom of a decidedly cool summer.

It is not that “21 Unions” would be a trifling political power, or, still less, that a voting body of “25,000 Members” strong is insignificant. Not that. But accustomed

as one is to see the firms who launch these “New Independent Labor Parties” start business with at least “100 Unions,” averaging “25,000 members” apiece—in their show-window displays—, this year’s political show-window certainly looks chilly enough to foreshadow a chilly summer.

But this is not all. Other considerations conspire to make this year’s political show-window display look still chillier. The firm, that is this year bulling the political Labor Market, comes from the “building trades.” Now, it is a known fact that, in that department of pure and simple Unionism, the overwhelming majority of the “Union” members never attend the “Union” meetings, and are members only in order to shield themselves against vexations, not from the employer or contractor, who skins them wholesale, but from the “Union” officers, those Democratic and Republican Labor Fakirs, who squeeze the dues out of them, and thus skin them in retail. When this fact is also considered, then the “25,000 members” that this year’s “New Independent Labor Party” show-window is stocked with, shrink to such puny dimensions for a “voting strength” to traffic on and deliverable, that one would feel justified to recommend for this year’s summer wear ulsters and winter caps—to the firm.

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