

*Industrial Notes
and Comments.*

Trades and Labor.

*Edited by * *
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TRADES AND LABOR POLITICS.

The recently formed independent political labor party should mark a new epoch in local politics. I am not prepared to say that it will, or it won't; but I am prepared to say if professional politicians and party hacks of any stamp are permitted to meddle with its workings, it will only be another good move frustrated for want of the exercise of horse sense.

I have no hesitancy in saying that an undercurrent has already been turned upon it, for the purpose of running it into fusion with one of the old parties.

Already is heard talk of an alliance. What alliance can this party make and retain its integrity?

If it is the opinion of the majority of the party that a course of this kind ought to be pursued, it is only just to the minority that they be told of it.

The name "Independent Political Labor Party" will not harmonize with any other political party to-day. The Government Labor Party, the Opposition Labor Party, the Liberal Labor Party or the Conservative Labor Party—any of these will go for what they are worth. If the new party is out for anything it should be out for honesty. If there is any purpose to serve in misleading the public, yea, even a portion of its members, then it belies its name. If we are to have independence, let it be independence. If we are to make common cause with any of the other parties, let's have the courage of our convictions.

It is regrettable that labor men find it difficult to agree upon a suitable candidate from their own ranks. For some reason or other they can tell you every weak point in any man suggested, and pretend not to see one strong trait in his whole make-up. Yet, if a yellow dog was put up by one of the old parties they would declare he was a strong man in

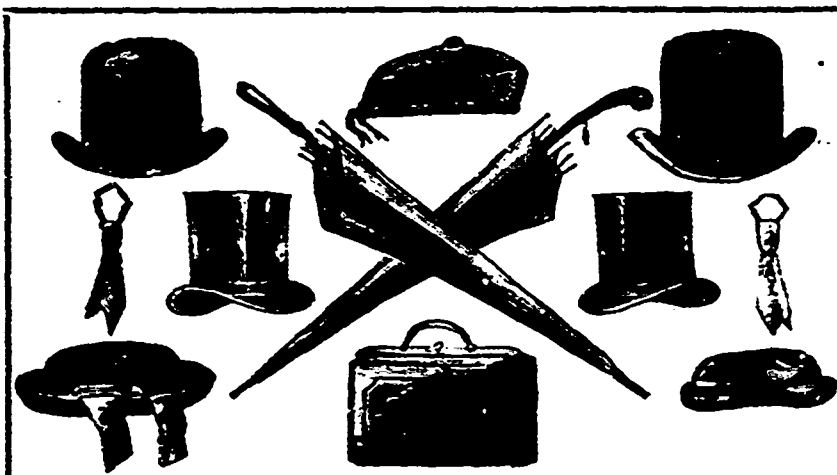
every particular. What fools working men are. They growl from New Year's to New Year's about the unfitness of the representatives for legislatures and parliaments, and when an opportunity of trying one of their own men comes, they allow themselves to be bamboozled by the smooth talk of professional heelers.

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Somebody has truthfully said that men either inherit their politics or get them second-hand. It might be added that not one man in a thousand undergoes a change of heart in this respect. This explains why working men do not redress their wrongs through the ballot box. It has often occurred to me that instead of trying to alienate the political affections of working men from their old loves, it would be better to feed the flame and encourage more working men to take an active interest in their party conventions. It matters little which party they belong to so long as they would exercise gumption enough to vote for candidates of their own making, rather than those put up by their capitalistic confederates just before election only. Politicians, and even statesmen, tell that party government is the only kind of government that can ever be; that no third party can live. The scheme suggested would not interfere with this open opinion, but what it would interfere with would be the personnel of representation of these parties. Instead of having lawyers, capitalists and professional men monopolizing the seats in parliament we would have more farmers, mechanics, manufacturers, and working men legislators.

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Just another stir in the political pot. The working man who tells you straight out that he is a Liberal or a Conservative as the case may be, is 100 per cent. preferable to the man who claims to be independent, and is not. There are a few of the latter kind at large, and to their discredit may be traced almost every failure of trade unionists to make itself felt in politics.



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