

THE MIRAGE OF MUNICIPAL POL-

ITICS.

Why is it that the Socialist Party of Canada does not enter into municipal politics? That question has been asked many times, and answered without due consideration by party members. At the present time, I am of the opinion that members of the Party are on the fence regarding the question. To be exact, they have not bothered their heads about mayoralty, or aldermanic honors, or considered the possibility of revolutionists polluting the atmosphere of that most holy of holies—"the council chamber."

Municipal politics as a rule are never considered of very much importance, consequently any thief that is able to get his work in, never succeeds in getting away with very much swag, because as a rule there is very little easy money going around loose. Hence the municipal game belongs in its entirety to the little business man and concerns him, and him alone. I am dealing with municipal affairs in Canada, as differing in many respects from conditions prevailing in Europe, or the United States of America, where more latitude is allowed, in the administration of towns and cities, by its property holders. In fact one can successfully contradict the assertion that there is such a thing as municipal government in Canada. In every city in the Dominion, its powers of governing is vested in a police commission, who are dictators in every sense of the word, and responsible to no one but the Provincial government. While it is true that the council is represented by the mayor as an ex-officio member, and one or two aldermen (who, by the way, are not responsible to the council), the other members of the commission are direct representatives of the Provincial government, and vested with the powers of the judiciary.

The council then is simply an administrative body, dependent on the judiciary of the province for the proper carrying out of its resolutions, and any resolutions which might happen to jeopardize the powers that be would inevitably fall by the wayside, impotent because of the lack of governing forces, to carry your resolution into effect.

I have endeavored to show you that it would be impossible to effect any reforms in your cities, even if the Socialists were in a majority, unless those reforms had the sanction of the Provincial government. "Now!" I wish to point out that civic administration is purely a property function, and exists for no other purpose. Provincial, Dominion and Empirical administrations are always backed up by the **POWERS OF GOVERNMENT**, which alone distinguish them from civic property administrations.

The function of civic administration is confined to matters of supervising the construction of sewers, sidewalks, and pavements, erecting fire halls and police stations, establishing building restrictions, negotiating financial loans on the strength of its population, and several matters of minor importance usually associated with municipalities. The working class as a class own no property. As Comrade Kingsley says, "Your mansions are in the skies," so it is no concern of the wage plugs how their masters spend the money to build their own sewers, sidewalks, boulevards or buy policemen's clubs.

The working class pay no taxes because they own no property, and even if they are the source from whence all blessings flow, the blessings have departed from their creators, by reason of the fact that to the user of that mystical commodity, labor-power, belongs the right to its use value, and as the function of labor begets a value greater than the value of labor power, it is from that surplus alone that taxes are paid.

Resolved then, "That your masters pay the taxes," consequently it makes not one iota of difference to your real wages, or nominal wages, whether taxes are high, low, or abolished all together, and furthermore be it resolved that the working asses should not meddle with their masters' private business, but devote their energies to fighting the master class in political arenas more suitable to an enlightened working class.

The municipal itch is a variety of the opportunist disease, and its symptoms resemble the shadow chasing of ambitious politicians, bent on a little cheap glory at the expense of good, sound propaganda.

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