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EDITORIAL

## THE ATLANTA CONVENTION.

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**A**LTHOUGH the A.F. of L. annual cartoon, together with its accompanying article, reproduced last week, sufficiently summarizes the annual farce-tragedy and tragical farce in the Labor Movement called the Convention of the American Federation of Labor, an eleven-year bird's-eye-view of the progress of the Socialist party's "boring from within" at the aforementioned annual exhibition will be supplementally useful.

In 1901 the A.F. of L. held its annual convention in Scranton, Pa. The S.P. men bored valiantly, went down, and were so completely down that, when the election of officers took place Gompers who had insulted and mopped the earth with them was elected "unanimously"—yes, unanimously, the S.P. borers being "voted" like cattle.

In 1902, the A.F. of L. annual convention was held at New Orleans, La. Out of that convention the "borers" returned home with a confidence in assured and speedy, indeed, immediate victory that burst through all their pores. True, they had again been "voted," making Gompers's election again unanimous, but a certain thing had happened which caused them and their press throughout the land to announce the certainty of victory, and the downfall of Gompers at the very next convention. That certain thing was the vote cast at the convention on the "Socialist Resolution." It was 4,171 votes for and 4,897 votes against—a slim majority; a majority of only 796 votes. The slim majority was to be wiped out next year, and Gompers along therewith.

Next year came, 1903. It was at Boston. The confidently victory-expecting S.P.'s set up their own candidate, one Kreft, a Philadelphia compositor, an ex-S.L.P. man who had gone over. The battle was fought with all the frenzy typical of Blindness in a combat. When the dust of the fray had settled Gompers turned out on top of the heap with 12,524 votes, while the "Socialist Resolution" was a thing of rags beside

which, lying prone and looking no less ragged, lay Kreft with barely 1,134, or 3,037 votes less than the expectant victors had gathered twelve months before for their “Socialist Resolution.”

But why go, year by year, through the harrowing succession of annual events? Let us take a nine-year leap forward. It places us at Atlanta, in this year of grace, 1911. And what happened? This, in a nutshell:—From Gompers and Duncan down, the Civic-Federationized and Militia-of-Christized A.F. of L. officers, who “put it all over the borers” are again elected “unanimously”—unanimously?—yes, unani- mously, the dear borers being voted in regulation style.

Eight years of “boring from within,” after the little spurt of 1903, washes the borers out to sea, further out to sea than in 1903, and as far out as twelve years ago.

Boring from within only is another name for crab-stepping. The Atlanta conven- tion establishes the fact.

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