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FIRST EDITORIAL

KICK THE RASCALS OUT!

By DANIEL DE LEON

SIGNS of progress are of two sorts: disintegration of the old and condensation of the new forces.

The process of condensation of new forces has been going on here for some time. The New Trade {Union} movement has been gathering strength throughout the land, and its highest practical and intellectual application—the Socialist Labor Party—has risen within 4 years from 2,000 to 23,000 votes in the land. Encouraging as these facts are in themselves, they become doubly encouraging when the multiplying evidences are considered of the disintegration of the old, putrid, reactionary forces.

The “pure and simple” misleaders of the working people are being unmasked with stupendous rapidity; the forces, they had so long held together at the services of the capitalists, have seen through them; the lies they had stuffed their followers with about their capacity to hold out against the capitalist with the union alone while keeping that class in public power have run their course. Enlightened by a sad experience of defeats, lower wages, longer hours, and ill-treatment, these forces are in open revolt against the traitors they had once trusted, and one after another the traitors are being kicked out.

In the Western States, the railroad employes are on all hands repudiating Arthur with execration.

Here in the East, and especially in New York, the defection of the Jewish workingmen from that vessel of frivolity, vanity, ignorance and corruption, called Joseph Barondess, has assumed such gigantic proportions that the silly charlatan Barondess is now almost isolated, an opposition bona fide union in his trade has

sprung up, and he has now about him only the most ignorant element on whom to practice his wiles.

In Ohio, the miners have demanded the resignation of their President McBride and their Secretary McBryde{,} who submitted to an outrageous plan of the bosses that the men take pay-orders at 60 days' sight in lieu of cash wages. The miners, whom these officers had so long hoodwinked with yarns about the omnipotence of the "pure and simple" union, had it brought forcibly home to them, by the submission to the bosses' plan, that they had been imposed upon, and, justly indignant, they turned to pull the traitors down.

Again, here in New York, we learn from the uncontradicted reports of the daily press that the local K. of L. organization of garment workers overthrew the incubus of a Westbrook together with others of his ilk. The scales having been rudely shaken off the eyes of the organization by the pickle into which the traitors were perpetually throwing it, it made short work of the barnacles; and this healthy spirit has also affected the American Federation garment workers, to the extent that among them the days of the Reichers, Whites and other traders on union labels may be said to be counted.

In Union No. 1 of the tailors, John B. Lennon, the treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, editor of *The Tailor*, and propounder of the maxim that it is sophistry to claim that there is any antagonism between the employer and the employe, is hearing some of the most unpalatable truths, truths that must sound ominous to his ears.

Nor is it in this country only that such a healthy process of revolt is going on. Abroad, the most recent instance occurred in South Wales. The "pure and simple" Abrahams got to the end of his tether; the miners, beaten by the economic and military powers of the bosses, hissed and hooted out of the Ronda district the rascal who had deceived them.

Instances of this sort fill columns. But many more are coming. The "pure and simpler" has been found out. Some are ignorant, others are corrupt, all are unfit for leadership in the Labor Movement. To civilize and unite them is out of all question. The Social Revolution must march over the bodies of each and all of them. In the measure in which the masses overthrow them, will there be union among the workers.

Clear the way!

Kick the rascals out!

* * *

The most significant occurrence of the week was the result of the balloting for delegates to the convention of the A.F. of L. by the cigarmakers, in session at Milwaukee. Four delegates were to be elected, an absolute majority is requisite for election, and 12 candidates took the field—Sam Gompers among them. At the first ballot only 2 had the absolute majority; one of these being M.T. Barnes of Union 100 of Philadelphia, a member of the Socialist Labor Party, and outspoken adversary of “pure and simpledom”; the other was John Derrel; Gompers was left. A second and third ballot had to be taken and Gompers had to undergo the humiliation of a fourth ballot before he could secure the absolute majority. Signs these be of awakening sense among the cigarmakers, and of distant yet approaching rumblings of the woe to come for each and every labor misleader!

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