

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 174.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1907.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

AFTER MULLANEY, HILTON.

By DANIEL DE LEON

RECENT despatches from Goldfield read like the reverse of a medal that urges the reading of the obverse thereof.

The despatches are to the effect that “O.N. Hilton, attorney for the Western Federation of Miners,” is in town; that the gentleman is trying to negotiate peace; and that the “olive branch” which he carries with him, and which is expected to throw Brother Capitalist mine-owner and Brother wage slave mine-worker in each other’s arms, is “the elimination” of about fifteen radical members of the W.F. of M.—their elimination both from the Federation and the camp.

This is one side of the medal. Now to the other.

Who is “O.N. Hilton, attorney for the Western Federation of Miners”? Mr. Hilton is a Colorado member of the Socialist party. Mr. Hilton is an almost perpetual candidate of that party for office in Colorado. Last, not least, or, rather, supplementarily, Mr. Hilton was the distinguished legal counsel for the Goldfield miners, whose brilliant legal ability succeeded in getting avowed reprobates on the jury that tried Preston and Smith, and who managed an otherwise safe case in such skillful wise that his two innocent clients were convicted. In short, Mr. Hilton—as a limb of that political party in which the Civic Federationized A.F. of L. finds one of its political expressions—has before now been active in the work of eliminating the bona fide Unionists from the ranks of the W.F. of M., and bleeding the organization down to that point of physical debility when it will be kin to the A.F. of L. and can make common cause therewith.

It was, we believe, Heslewood, who, at this year’s convention of the W.F. of M., demanded that the funds collected for the defense of St. John be sent direct to him, on the ground that, if entrusted to the Kirwan-O’Neill-Mahoney triumvirate, the funds would be used to hang St. John. Heslewood must have been onto “O.N. Hilton,

attorney for the Western Federation of Miners.”

After Mullaney, the would-be assassin, Hilton, the S.P. attorney and counselor at law.

The former failed; the latter will not succeed. Neither assassination nor intrigue can hold back a Movement like that of the modern “fanatics.” When “fanatics” hold the vantage ground of soundness, held to-day by the Socialists, while the law of existence of their foes itself is daily eating the ground from under these—when that combination enters upon the stage of history, the shafts of assassination and intrigue are alike powerless.

The Movement moves onward—athwart the swarms of Mullaney and Hiltons.

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

Uploaded November 2009

slpns@slp.org