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EDITORIAL

## LOYALTY OR TREASON TREMBLING IN THE SCALES.

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**W**ITHIN two weeks the annual convention of the Western Federation of Miners is to meet in Denver. It will be a memorable event, one of the memorable events now crowding thick and fast. In no convention of the working class, so far held in America, have such opposing forces taken a hand. Little chicaneries have often before been practised for the control of conventions. The labor lieutenants of the capitalist class have ever been busy in advance of conventions. Where they did not have instructions direct from their masters they always had their own petty fences to fix. It is otherwise in this instance. The capitalist class has found out that the work at hand needs something more than the mere machinations of their labor understrappers. The capitalist class left it to their understrappers to capture the I.W.W. convention last year in Chicago, and thus scuttle the only organization of Labor, which, indeed, organized instead of dislocating the working class. That experiment failed. The understrappers were downed and bounced. The I.W.W. was saved. The work of controlling the convention of the W.F. of M., the largest of all the units which de facto constitute the I.W.W., has been taken in hand by the capitalists themselves. Not that the tools of the capitalists, their conscious or unconscious agents, the reactionary labor leader, with "revolution" on his lips and "cowardice" in his heart, have been neglected. Not that. We have seen the Mahoneys, the darlings of the mine owner speculators, sandbagging the working class in Goldfield; we have seen the O'Neills echoing the lurid-vapid insults that capitalism has for "proletaire rabble"; we have seen the Kirwans at their underground work of seeking to poison the delegates' minds. All this we have seen; and all this was useful to the capitalist scheme of A.F. of L.-izing the Western miners. But all this was not enough. The capitalist political machinery

was set in motion. St. John, the hero of the Goldfield strike, together with another delegate to the convention, were arrested on a trumped up, transparently ridiculous charge, and are kept in jail “awaiting trial,” that is, out of the coming convention of the W.F. of M.; while Haywood, against whose person the conspiracy was first started, is kept for trial before a jury that the prosecution carefully manages to keep in a state of perpetually melting away. Thus the capitalists of the land have taken a direct hand in the convention. With some of its best men forcibly kept from the coming convention of the W.F. of M., the capitalist class counts with controlling, counts with extracting the spine from that organization and at the same time from the I.W.W.

Will Treason to the working class triumph in Denver? Will loyalty emerge victorious? Impossible to foretell. This much, however, is certain: The old maxim holds good to-day, as it ever did in the past—“When the few attempt to sell what belongs to the many, the purchaser finds his purchase a hollow one.” Treason may triumph in Denver, **ONLY TO BE STAMPED OUT IN THE LAND.** The Cause of Labor’s emancipation neither will nor can be downed by Treason. While Loyalty and Treason may seem to be trembling in the scales, Treason is bound to kick the beam.

The scales of the Social Revolution are held aloft in the hands of the Genius of the Age, they are not the false scales that are held up in the hand of the Class that has outlived its usefulness, and the still more worthless element that serves as the agent of that Class.

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

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