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EDITORIAL

## BURNING CANDLES TO THE DEVIL.

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It is not on the domain of so-called religions alone that superstitions are grafted upon frightened minds, with bizarre manifestations as the result. The same thing happens every day on the domain of the pure and simple Labor Movement.

In the domain of so-called religions, weak minds are thrown into a terror, and upon that stem the "Theory of the Devil" is grafted. Presently, a wonderful sight is seen. The terrorized victim of superstition detests the Devil; but for all that, and by the very reason of the power imputed to His Satanic Majesty, the trembling weak mind acquires considerable respect for that gentleman, to the extent of not infrequently burning a candle to him, so as to allay his wrath. Ditto, ditto, on the domain of the pure and simple Union. Hogan's shoe shop in Newark, N.J., is just furnishing an instance in point.

Tobin's Boot and Shoe Workers' Union has compelled Hogan to "unionize" his shop. What does that mean? It means that Mr. Hogan receives the "Union Label," and in exchange for this "favor" compels his employees, boys at \$4 a week included, to pay into Tobin's concern \$1 a month. In other words, Mr. Hogan is burning a candle to the Devil.

What is happening to Hogan is nothing exceptional. The Organized Scabbery starts by terrorizing the manufacturer. His methods are identical with those of the religionist, and his Devil scare. The Organized Scabbery has no power other than it can produce by the religionist's tricks. It presents itself to the manufacturers as powerful, makes mysterious noises, and throws the weak-kneed among them into terror with threats of "haunting" them all over the land. Thus mentally dieted, the weak manufacturer is ready to negotiate with the Devil. What does Sir Devil want? The answer causes a heavy stone to roll off the manufacturer's heart. The religionist's Devil must be propitiated by shining gold, transmuted into bright burning candles; the Organized Scabbery Devil is a cheaper article; indeed, he is a bargain. All that the manufacturer needs to do is to see that his employees, not

himself, pay dues to the Organized Scabbery: wages, hours of work, all that cuts no figure. As a voucher, the manufacturer gets the "Label." What a cinch! What an easy, accommodating Devil to pacify.

The strength of the Organized Scabbery, to do the all-'round dirty work which it does, lies in the industrial superstition, the ignorance of the bosses. With that as a fulcrum, the Organized Scabbery corrals what workingmen it can and fleeces them. The manufacturer, who, yielding like Hogan to the Tobins, becomes the puller-in for these gentlemen, stands upon the identical psychic level with the mystified "religious" victim who burns a candle to the Devil.

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

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