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EDITORIAL

## PALS FALLING OUT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**O**F a sudden the New York *Times* sees no good, aye, it sees great harm to the country, to “civilization,” to—well, to everything worth having in the “pure and simple Unions,” that is to say in those organizations of Labor that are either frankly built upon the stupidity that Capital and Labor are brothers, or that have a Socialistic declaration of principles, like a pirate ship flying false colors, but betray their identity with the former set by allowing themselves to be officered by heelers of the capitalist parties, and by their conduct in the economic field play into the hands of the “Organized Scabbery.” These sorts of Unions were once the pets of the *Times*. It boomed them in all their preposterous fly-paper pretences; held them up as bright examplars in cheerful contrast to the “blood-thirsty” bona fide Socialist Unions, and was untiring in writing on their “great achievements.” It is immaterial to the real point that this change of heart has come over the *Times* since the Steel Strike, that is to say, at a time when the function of “pure and simple” Unionism as a pawn in the capitalist chess game interferes with the steel stock speculations of its masters. The real point is that the *Times* now is making certain statements, that are pre-eminently true about the condition of Labor in America, statements that, just as soon as the existing cause of irritation with its pals shall have subsided, it is sure to contradict. Hence it is well to enter of record, for future reference, the statements in question.

In its headlong bad temper the *Times* has unearthed an article, written last year by Mr. Benjamin Taylor, against Trade Unionism in England. Among the passages it quotes with approval is this:

“A German or American workingman will give equal attention simultaneously to three, four or six machines or tools, while the British workingman is compelled by his trades union to limit his attention to one.”

A substantially correct statement; and pregnant is the lesson it teaches!

Here in America, where capitalism has deployed freest and has, differently from England, the field all to itself, the workingman is exploited three, four and six times as much as on the other side; and such an intense exploitation is his share here for the very reason of the existence here of just the kind of “Unionism,” whose absurd structure and “Organized Scabbery” leadership commend the thing generally to the *Times* and the class it writes for.

In last month’s issue of the *Machinists’ Journal*, several times referred to in these columns, Mr. Hugh MacGregor turned somersaults of delight at the decision of the A.F. of L. to raid Puerto Rico, and organize the workers there, and he announced the decision as “a first step in a movement that will encircle the globe.” By the light of the quotation, unwisely taken by the *Times*, one may judge that it is not the Jubilee the said “first step” has in store for the workers. As American capitalism is invading the world, it is bound to take in its train its pals, the “pure and simple” Union with its “Organized Scabbery” leadership. The two sets of pals may, as happens just now, occasionally fall out, but they are bound to make up again, seeing they need each other.

It is quite certain, however, that on their “world encircling” move, long before they shall have completed the circle, the two sets will be overtaken and wiped out, their alternating love feasts and quarrels put an end to, by another Movement, whose first step was the running up the masthead, and nailing there, the flags of the Socialist Labor Party and of bona fide, intelligent Unionism,—the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance.

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

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