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FIRST EDITORIAL

BRAVO, CIVIC FEDERATION!

By DANIEL DE LEON

A double demonstration of prime significance has been the immediate and practical result of the labors of the Committee of Conciliation of the Civic Federation in this city. One demonstration took place inside of Cooper Union on the 8th instant, another demonstration, the companion piece of the first, took place outside of Cooper Union on the following day.

The demonstration inside of Cooper Union consisted in an emphatic proof by the intelligent workingmen, who made up the majority of the meeting, that no amount of chicanery, schemed by the Organized Scabbery in common with its paymasters, the Capitalist Class, can any longer deceive a sufficient number of workers. The irrepressibleness of the conflict between the capitalist exploiter and the exploited workingman was maintained; and the Gomperses, Mitchells and the rest of that ilk, together with their “intellectual” backers, the Sprague Smiths, Prof. Adlers, and the rest of that ilk, were made to see plainly that the day of Humbug was running out. The speakers were made to look silly and ridiculous by the spontaneous questions fired at them from the audience and provoked by their silly gabble about “peace” when there is no peace, and about the “harmonious relations that should exist between Capital and Labor.” The small size of the meeting was in itself a demonstration: Humbug does not attract any longer as it used to: the Socialist Labor Party has plowed too deep and sowed too well for that. But the temper of the meeting, which in rollicking good nature tossed on its horns the would-be dealers in economic saw-dust on the platform, perfected the demonstration. “The people’s eyes are getting open” was a remark heard from many a man as the crowd left the hall and the discomfited Conciliationists.

The supplemental demonstration took place the next day in the columns of the capitalist press. Were it not for THE PEOPLE’S report, the public would have had only a faint idea of the meeting. Not a capitalist morning paper but tried to tone down the rebuff received by the Conciliationists, and especially anxious were they to soothe the feelings of Mr. Gompers. The evening papers followed suit, showering

compliments upon the banged-up Gompers. Correct!

The Gomperses, the Organized Scabbery of the land, are the sheet-anchor of the capitalist class. On them the capitalists dote, together with the pure and simple style of Unionism that enables the capitalist to run the concern with these his nasty pets of the Organized Scabbery. What a demonstration, what an eye-opener was it not to see in yesterday's papers, which at all critical moments have nothing for the workers but the rifle diet, speak of the Socialists as a "turbulent element" and of Gompers as a "conservative, noble man"! Correct! Gompers, the endorser of a Cantor, who was the applauder of Gov. Flower for sending the militia to Buffalo, so as to help the railroad magnates break the 10-hour law, on which occasion the workingman's boy Broderick was murdered and others maltreated;—Gompers, accordingly, the man whose face is bespattered with the blood of that workingman's child, he, indeed, is the fit, the nasty pet of the capitalist class!

May the Civic Federation be ever as successful as it was in this its initial effort. It has greatly helped, by bringing on these two demonstrations, to bring on ultimate peace. The clearer it is made that the spawn of the pure and simple union are the pets of the capitalists, and that for the Fighting S.L.P. these gentlemen's journalists have nothing but rage, all the quicker will the irrepressible conflict of our generation be settled.

Speed the day!

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