

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 2, NO. 231.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1902.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

“NOBLY WAGING,” ETC., “BORING,” ETC.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ALSO that Cooper Union mass meeting, or rather, fizzle, of the 13th instant, to denounce the Gompers alliance with Hanna, should not be allowed to hide its light under a bushel.

The meeting was a Kangaroo, alias Social Democratic, alias “Socialist” affair. But not the political, the economic side of the combination was to be aired. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Kangaroo Social Democratic Trade Unionists. It was intended to illustrate the “nobleness” with which this collection “wages the class struggle,” and also how the “boring from within” is done. It illustrated both to perfection.

Among the speakers, announced in advance on printed circulars, and chosen as drawing cards, were two pillars of “noble wagers” and “borers,” Mr. Ben Hanford and Mr. Morris Brown, alias Moses Brana. Neither turned up. They were looked for in the audience and on the platform, they were searched for under chairs and behind doors, they were called for from aisles and from desks; but echoes answered: “Never more,”—only this, and nothing more. Why this thusness.

As to Mr. Hanford, he, a member of International Typographical Union No. 6, had been a violent denouncer of a certain *Sun* strike agitation committee. The long-headed fakirs, or labor lieutenants of the capitalist class, who run the Union, turned their telescopes upon the gentleman; weighed him and measured him as astronomers weigh and measure stars in space; and they took him down, fine. The said committee was turned from a voluntary into a paid concern, and Mr. Hanford was appointed one of its members. He became like new-born. From being a violent opposer, he forthwith became an enthusiastic supporter of the said committee. In other words, he became a partner of the Organized Scabbery. Stick a pin there.

Everybody knows that there is a “boycott” on the *Sun* by the grace of the said

Union. Everybody also knows that wages on the *Sun* are as high as anywhere else, and no such issue exists between that paper and the Union. What is at stake, obviously, is not any class interest of the working class. What, then, is up? The fakir leaders want to force themselves into the labor lieutenancy of the Sun Corporation, very much in the way that the Highland highwaymen of old forced themselves as guardians of sheep into the service of the lowlandmen whose sheep they stole. What is at stake, consequently, are the interests of the Union’s fakir leaders, in other words, the interests of Mr. Hanford’s partners. Stick a second pin there.

Now, then, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, an extensive holder of *Sun* stock, has, through Schwab of the “Industrial Peace Committee,” his finger in that pie, a pie in which Mr. James M. Lynch, President of the said International Typographical Union, has also a finger. Thus fingers touch.—The sequence is complete. The Organized Scabbery, whose interests are at stake in the *Sun*, is manoeuvring in its own behalf, by means of that very Hanna-Gompers “Industrial Peace Committee,” that the above mass meeting was to condemn. The Organized Scabbery cracked the whip, and their partner Hanford “nobly waged the class struggle” and successfully “bored from within” by obsequiously lying low.

Ditto, ditto, as to Mr. Brown. He, a holder of a fat Union job in the International Cigarmakers’ Union by the grace of Dan Harris, a lieutenant of the very Gompers whose solidarity with Hanna the said meeting was to “denounce,” emulated his Kangaroo pal Hanford. Holding a Union job, that is away above the wages earned by the large majority of the rank and file, and receiving other perquisites from the Organized Scabbery, he too is their partner, jointly with them riding and misleading the workers. His partners cracked the whip, and this “noble wager of the class struggle” and decidedly successful “borer from within,” “waged” and “bored” sublimely by crawling.

It is no accident that these two worthies are highly treasured Social Democrats; it is no wonder that the two, in the fit company of Henry Stahl, headed the Kangaroo ticket last year; least of all is it any wonder that the 150,000 rank and file membership, that they boast to have in tow, slapped them squarely on the face on election day, by leaving them brilliantly in the lurch, despite all the “endorsements” and moneys wrung from them.

Hold high the light shed by the Cooper Union mass meeting of the 13th! Not a

ray that it sheds should escape!

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

Uploaded August 2006