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EDITORIAL

## THE FRESHEST INDICTMENT.

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**A** SUPPLEMENT to the *Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's Magazine*, containing the reply of the organization to the circulars recently issued by Grand Chief Stone of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, is a document that should be in the library of every student of the Social Question. The reply is a magazine of facts. The facts therein mentioned are so many counts in a crushing indictment of that bulwark of capitalist iniquity in the land—craft Unionism.

The Grand Chief, having developed into that which craft Unionism fatedly breeds, a labor lieutenant of the capitalist class, had, by acts of commission and omission, so well served his masters in some of their recent conflicts with their railroad employes in the Southwest that the outcry against him could not be ignored, and he felt constrained to issue a circular making his “statement” in answer. It was in an evil hour for the Grand Chief that the circular was sent out. So far from “answering”, what his circular does is to afford a matchless target for the reply to hit.

The reply proves that the Grand Chief's men had, not only scabbed themselves, but “volunteered to hire scabs to fire for them.” It proves that “there was published in the San Antonio papers an advertisement for all men who desired to scab on locomotive firemen TO APPLY TO ANY LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER FOR A JOB.” It proves that in the “worthy” endeavor to defeat the firemen on strike the Grand Chief's men had “even gone so far as to cook for scabs in the bullpen.” As a culminating count, it charges that, when asked why they scabbed on their fellow workers, the firemen, the Grand Chief's men blandly answered under the pontifical benediction of their Grand Chief that “they had to maintain their agreements with the Company”!

The Social Question is pivoted on the Union Question. So long as that spawn of the capitalist machination, the craft Union, is in vigor, the solution of the Social Question is impossible. The way to progress is barred by a double combination: the material power exercised by the capitalist class behind their breastworks, the craft Union; secondly, the mental impotence into which the working class at large is thrown by the superstitious reverence for the word "Union." Using the sentiment of the workers against themselves, the capitalist class cloaks itself in the cloak of "Unionism", and, palming off a hideous monstrosity for the real thing, physically and mentally dominates the proletariat, by keeping these not only divided in warring craft organizations, but accumulating against one another a large store of resentment, that is ever ready to explode into scabbing—to the greater glory of Capital, to the greater degradation of the wage slave.

Of old Calvin traversed Switzerland with Bible in one hand, sword in the other, and his steps keeping measure to the motto: "Qui iterum mergunt mergantur" [Let those who re-baptize (re-emerge) be emersed (drowned).] cleansed the region of the bizarre Knipperdoling superstitions that, like poisonous weeds, had sprung up from Luther's Reformation. It should seem that an infinitely more potent sword, in the hands of the organizers of Industrial Unionism, is furnished by the cumulating misdeeds of the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class. It should seem that every new "Contract" iniquity should whet the sword of Industrialist propaganda, and aid it to cut wide the swath for class conscious economic organization to march to the overthrow of capitalist tyranny.

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

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