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EDITORIAL

MITCHELL HAS LEARNED.

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THERE are two ways of learning; or, two orders of acquisition of knowledge. One is to drop bad habits and acquire good ones.—This is not what Mitchell learned.

The other is to acquire the trick whereby bad habits may be persevered in with the semblance of conversion to good habits.—This is what Mitchell learned.

What the National Civic Federation is has been repeatedly exposed in the *Daily People* with facts undenied, being undeniable, and arguments unshakable. The exposure being immediately upon the formation of that remarkable body. The first of the “two pages” of the pamphlet entitled *Two Pages From Roman History*—niching, labeling and for all time marking the National Civic Federation as the latter day manifestation of a phenomenon well known to the labor-exploiting classes and their lieutenants of antiquity—first appeared in these columns. In a nutshell—the National Civic Federation is a scheme of the leading plunderers of the Working Class to befuddle the workers into impotence for redress. Seeing such an operation cannot very well be performed upon the brains and moral fibre of the proletariat by the above named plunderers themselves, the patient would be on his guard, the schemers of the National Civic Federation organized themselves with their labor-lieutenants, the “labor leaders.” These modern “plebs leaders,” operating among the workers under the common designation of “workingmen,” able, therefore, to raise the common delusion of a “common cause” with these, were justly expected to have easy sailing in their nefarious mission. Thus was the Gompers, Mitchell, etc., special practitioners corps of “labor leaders” incorporated in the plutocratic scheme; and thus was the National Civic Federation launched.

The scheme, though powerful in funds and personnel, hence, though able to carry out its program to a certain degree, found its path to success blocked by a

force with which it had not reckoned. The Socialist Labor Party's agitation and education—spread unterrorized by the many-headed dragon's howl against it—first sounded the signal or what the National Civic Federation meant; and, steadily since corroborated the warning with succeeding events during the succeeding years. Rarely has the power of Truth been more signally illustrated. ONE word by the S.L.P. outweighed ONE MILLION uttered by the many-mouthed National Civic Federation. And the day came when a large Union, that of the coal miners, though still to a considerable extent, due to its recent president Mr. John Mitchell, under the narcotic influence of the National Civic Federation, shook itself sufficiently awake to brand the National Civic Federation for what it is, and to demand of Mr. Mitchell that he choose between them and his capitalist associates—either get out of the Union, or get out of the National Civic Federation and thereby drop the lucrative job he was there bribed with.

With the alternative thus squarely put to him, Mr. Mitchell was given the opportunity to show whether he had learned anything.

Had he learned nothing whatever, Mr. Mitchell would still believe in the omnipotence of money to bribe; he would still believe in the utter incapacity of Labor to “catch on”; he would still believe in the irresistible power of the “labor-lieutenants” of the capitalist class to befog by jollyng the workers alone. So believing he would have repudiated the decision of the convention and would have relied upon his ability to silence his Union's voice. Mr. Mitchell no longer holds these views. That he does not is proven clearly enough by abstaining from repudiating the decision of the convention. From this it would seem that Mr. Mitchell has learned something good, good enough to cause the devils within his former self to be cast out; to make room for a clean, at least a cleaner soul; and to turn over a new leaf. Moreover, the impression would seem to receive confirmation from his acceptance of the second of the alternatives presented to him. He resigned from the National Civic Federation.

Is not that an evidence of Mr. Mitchell's having learned something good? Not so fast. Had Mr., Mitchell really learned something good his resignation would not go, as it does, accompanied with growls at the “unfairness” and other alleged bad qualities of his Union's attitude towards the National Civic Federation. As it is, the

resignation justifies the conclusion that the worthy learned, and exhibits his proficiency only in one of the characteristic tricks of his National Civic Federation capitalist associates.

When the railroad Interests, for instance, on the National Civic Federation are ordered by a Federal law not to hold stock in mines or in other industries, on the ground that such consideration in their hands tends to ruin the business of mine owners and owners of other industries who do not control railroad facilities, what do these Interests do? They denounce the law as “unfair” and otherwise bad, at the same time they announce their readiness to obey the law. And how do they obey it? The mining and other non-railroad stock is relinquished by them—to the “sisters, the cousins and the aunts” of themselves. They appear to have “resigned” from their previous non-railroad interests, yet, in point of fact, keep their clutches on the same. Similarly with the rest of the Interests. They “resign” that which they can retain control of, and they stick to that, which to resign, would cause all control to slip from their hands. This is the trick Mr. Mitchell learned.

To resign from the Union would utterly deprive the gentleman of opportunities to exert in the Unions the influence that his political and economic “conscience” holds should be exerted, as indicated by his growls at the “unfairness” of the treatment bestowed upon the National Civic Federation. On the other hand, to resign from the National Civic Federation leaves him free to exert in the Unions his “conscience” above referred to—without in any way rupturing his touch, which can easily be continued underground, with the National Civic Federation of plunderers of the Working Class.

Mr. Mitchell has learned—just what the modern “plebs leader” is expected to learn from close intimacy with the modern patriciate, the Capitalist Class.

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