

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 229.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1901.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

“BORING FROM WITHIN” SELF-EXHIBITED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ELSEWHERE in this issue will be found a document of singular value to help understand the essential identity there is between the Organized Scabbery that runs the “pure and simple” unions, and the “boring from within” squad.¹

The document refers to the situation in the late ill-starred great strike of the cigarmakers in this city. Upon the perverse, ignorant and corrupt nature of the officers of the International Cigarmakers’ Union, who gave birth to, engineered and all along exploited the strike, the document throws but little real light additional to the light thrown by the DAILY PEOPLE upon those gentlemen during and, more recently, after the strike. The instructiveness of the document lies in the source from which it emanates.

Since the middle of the spring, and all through the summer, the DAILY PEOPLE called attention to the fact that the strike was a gigantic crime being perpetrated upon the rank and file of the cigarmakers in this city, and also upon the cigarmakers outside of the city and other labor organizations. We showed that the strike was hopelessly lost; that it was continued merely as a source of revenue for and by the carrion crows of Fakirs who had strike jobs, and who were living in clover (while the strikers’ places were put in jeopardy), upon the moneys extorted from the union and other workers under the false pretence that “the strike was prospering.”

While, true to the duty of a bona fide Labor paper, the DAILY PEOPLE was, unterrifiedly, daily making these exposures, it encountered no more malevolent opposition than that which proceeded from,—where? From the very source that now issues the document corroborative in detail of all that the DAILY PEOPLE had announced,—from the “Borers from Within.” With the obscene *New Yorker Volkszeitung* as their mouthpiece, this element repeated every swindle pretence

¹ [“Int’l Cigarmakers. Their Organized Scabbery in Each Other’s Hair.” Go to page 3.]

that the Fakirs in charge were setting afloat; they whooped up the strike as a “certain success;” they encouraged the sending of “strike” moneys; they out-Heroded Herod in their ribaldry, vituperation and balderdash against the DAILY PEOPLE. They outdid the Fakirs.

The first question that arises is, Were the “Borers from Within” themselves duped by the Fakirs? The answer is found in the document: Emphatically, “No, they knew all about it!”

The next question that therefore arises is, What moves the “Borers from Within” to now come out with the truth? Can it be that they have got a new heart? Is it a case of confession and repentance? “No!” And this is the instructive point.

The “Borers from Within” are as corrupt and infamous as the regular Fakirs: both see in the Union only a source of revenue at the expense of the rank and file. The only difference between the two is a difference in favor of the “Regulars.” The regular Fakir makes no bones of his capitalist political affiliations, the “Borer from Within” seeks to exploit both the rank and file and the Socialist Movement, with whose feathers he seeks to deck himself. The “Regular” has the Union jobs; the “Borer from Within” hankers after them. Thus it happens that, every time when the issue is the bona fide Labor Movement, i.e., the Socialist Labor Party and the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance, both “Regulars” and “Borers” are as united as Democratic and Republican capitalists are found to be when the issue is the working class. Thus it happened that when the DAILY PEOPLE and the spokesmen of the S.L.P. and S.T. & L.A. rang the signal of alarm at the crime that the “Regulars” were perpetrating, the “Borers” joined the “Regulars” and outdid them in the vain endeavor to drown the voice of sense; while now when the issue is the job of President of the International Union, and the “Borers” have their own candidate, the malodorous Barnes, running against Perkins, the candidate of the “Regulars,” the two fall out just as Democratic outs fall out with Republican ins, or vice versa. The reason for the “revelations” now made by Mr. Barnes, is the fact of his being a candidate for a job. An accomplice through silence in the crime of the strike, he now turns against his pals.

“Boring from Within” spells heaping infamy upon infamy.

Smash them both, both “Regulars” and “Irregulars!”

INT'L CIGARMAKERS

Their Organized Scabbery in Each Other's Hair.

J. Mahlon Barnes & Companions of the New Brigade of Organized Scabbery Known as "Borers From Within," Fulminate the Below Document Against Their Colleagues, the Old Guard of Organized Scabs—A Document Worth Preserving.

"Facts on the New York strike, as established in the discussion in Bohemian Hall, New York, last Sunday, with the participation of members of Union 100, Philadelphia."

"1. The continuance of the strike after the third month was absolutely unjustified.

"2. The lockout immediately placed the strikers at a serious economic disadvantage. Of this the Executive Committee of the Joint Advisory Board was well aware.

"3. The hope for success in the economic battle rests wholly upon being able to prevent the capitalists from acquiring the merchandise which secures to them their profit.

"4. If the acquiring of the merchandise can not be made impossible to the capitalist in a sufficient degree, then the strike is lost. People, who know that an enormous quantity of the respective merchandise is being turned out, also know that the strike is lost.

"5. It was regularly reported that 6,000 people were on strike; 4,000 would have been corrector; and at no time did more than 3,000 obtain strike support in any one week.

"6. The strike was not lost for lack of strike funds. Out-lying Local Unions, to the number of 281, contributed an aggregate off \$53,662.04, while the aggregate contributions of the District of New York ran up to \$82,613.25, and the international assessment raised about \$30,000, including the outlays of the General Fund for beneficial members, and exclusive of the contribution of the A.F. of L. Altogether, there were \$184,636.93 disbursed, and, when the strike was ended, there was still \$23,000 in the strike treasury. Union No. 100 contributed, besides the international assessment of \$1, altogether \$2,887.70. Only the two completely organized cities of Boston and St. Louis contributed more.

“7. The President and the Secretary said in a circular: ‘On account of lack of funds during the first seven months we could not take hold actively.’ From the first to the fifth week, April 21, they had every week from \$3,000 to \$6,000 more than all their expenses amounted to; from the sixth to the thirteenth week, June 16 inclusive, they had a surplus of from \$8,000 to \$13,000. This covers the first three months.

“8. On May 14, during the ninth week of the New York strike, 271 girls in Harburger & Thomas’ factory quit work, while 535 stayed in. For this strike and the suits therewith connected the Unions of Philadelphia expended during the first four weeks \$4,250. The New York Executive Committee refused obstinately to rendered assistance, although it had every week a surplus of from \$9,000 to \$13,000, and at the same time agents from New York in Philadelphia presented the situation falsely to both sides.

“9. On May 15 a conference was held in New York by the International President Perkins, A. Strasser and members of the Executive Committee of the J.A.B. A. Marouchek said in Philadelphia that the conference had realized that the crisis was a hand; and they had resolved to allow the strikers to work upon fine work in the Annex Shops of the bosses’ combination. This declaration is signed R. Modest.

“10. A. Strasser declared that at first thee were less than 5,000 persons n the strike and lockout, and that, at the same time, the bosses’ combine had from the start at least 3,000 employed elsewhere. He admitted that, up to the eighth week, May 12, the combine had employed at least 4,000, and he held the situation to be so grave that he did not even wish to communicate the fact to the Advisory Board.

“11. We now know that, on May 12, the situation was abut this: In several factories—old and newly opened ones—the combine had in Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Newburg, Lancaster, Bohemiaville, New Brunswick, Harrisburg, Passaic, Elizabeth, Philadelphia, Camden, Kerbs’ shop in New York and other places at least 5,000 scabs at work, while, on the other hand, thee were at the same time less than 3,000 strikers in new York on the pay-list; and we know that the conference knew on May 15 that the strike was lost. The members in general had no suspicion of this; and the New York members, who paid weekly a \$1 assessment, were not allowed to know it either. Even from the laymen and the working members of the Advisory Board this fact was withheld. And we now all know what were the sad consequences of that.

“12. We no ask: Was it sensible to allow such a strike to run five months longer?

“13. The strike was lost; it, nevertheless, was continued by the members of the conference, notwithstanding they knew that it was lost. They had reasons for doing so:

“First—Moral cowardice. The members would have taken them to be bad leaders had they admitted defeat.

“Second—Funds were flowing in in generous sums.

“Third—If the struggle was continued as long as moneys were coming in, an opportunity might perhaps present itself to shift the blame of the defeat upon the shoulders of others.

“For these reasons, and with such an object, or a still more dishonorable one—for the sake of what ‘there was in it’—in view, the strike was continued.

“14. About \$120,000 has been wrongfully taken from the members of the International Union; worst of all were the members in New York forced to suffer. Each of these paid \$26 in local assessments. We call this an infamous and criminal conduct, and prove it documentarily.

“15. But these revelations are no evidence against the correctness of the principle of Trade Unionism, or that the Union should be given up, or that the organization of our craft can be destroyed by the bosses or by the temporary lukewarmness of the workingmen. Capitalist conditions demand the existence of the Union and its constant growth, despite defeats {and} whatever their cause. The C.M.I.U. of A. is to-day numerically stronger than ever.

“16. It is the fault of the members if, after they have made these experiences, they ever again allow such a fiasco. The dearly-paid-for lesson in this unequal economic struggle is this: The working class must march its hosts against the capitalist class, in the political struggle as well. No let-up for Capitalism or its defenders.

“CHARLES DREES,
“M.C. KRECK,
“H.C. PARKER,
“P.S. MONTIS,
“J. MAHLON BARNES.”

“Philadelphia, Feb. 7, 1901.”

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

Uploaded January 2006