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EDITORIAL

SUFFICIENT UNTO THE DAY, ETC.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FOR the hundredth time—or is it the thousandth?—an organization has been set up, on paper of course, in this country with the name and style of “Trades Union Political League of America.” A body, consisting of delegates from other bodies, whose motto is: “No politics in Unions,” and whose theory is: “The economic movement is all sufficient,” can not constitute itself into a political body without convicting itself of freakishness, and suggesting fraud. Experience is ample on the subject. These “Trades Union Political Leagues,” have ever wound up in stenchful fraud and side-splitting freakishness.

Possessed of this knowledge, and of the additional knowledge that such “Leagues” invariably have some capitalist aspirant for their moving spirit, the *Chicago Daily News* turned with unerring instinct to Mr. John Burns, British Member of Parliament, by the grace of a capitalist party, for a word of encouragement. Mr. Burns promptly responded: when were such gentlemen ever found slow to avail themselves of an opportunity to organize themselves into a tableau, and talk through the columns of a capitalist paper? Mr. Burns’ delivery appears in the *Daily News* of the 10th instant as a “special cable.” In it this passage occurs:

“It is quite right that America’s new labor party should deal with the question of the militia. Let it call for equal representation in those bodies from which the armed forces take their orders. Fortunately in England we have been free from this sort of trouble, owing to the prominent part which labor has taken in the English parliament.”

“Free from this sort of trouble”?—Why, it was but yesterday that workingmen on strike were trampled down by dragoons in Liverpool and Hull; and all the while a beautiful bouquet of Labor Skates, like Mr. Burns, was “taking a prominent part in the English parliament”!

It is quite enough to see the Labor Movement in America—in free suffrage America—, weighed down with the millstone of British pure and simple Trade Unionism. That British abortion had the lead of the class-conscious Movement here; it was found rank in size when the intelligent Movement started; the struggle, now on hand, to cut loose from it could not be escaped. But sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. The Movement in America need not stagger under the double infliction of British “pure and simpleness,” and also British Labor political fakirism. Nor shall it. The class-conscious political Movement of Labor in America is now far enough ahead to prevent that second infliction. In vain may the American capitalist press seek the aid of the Burnses,—“Labor” men who enter Parliament through the gate of some capitalist party—, to instill their poison into the system of the American Labor Movement. Militia outrages, like Liverpool and Hull dragonades, cannot be glossed over to the American eye with such phrases as “freedom from that sort of trouble,” much as such dragonades may have to be winked at by the “Labor” that “takes prominent part in the English parliament,”—by the grace of a capitalist party.

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