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EDITORIAL

LAYING THE PIPES FOR RIOTS.

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THE clash of arms, the loss of life, workingmen's lives, the turbulence now reigning in Albany,—all this is a good light by which to read certain “news” items with which the plutocratic press is just now teeming.

Such headings as these are just now common, followed by articles to match:

“Immense Strike Ordered.”

“150,000 Machinists Directed to Stop Work May 20.”

“President James O’Connell of the International Association of Machinists Heads a Formidable Force.”

“Large Numbers of Firms Signing the Contract.”

Etc., Etc., Etc.

Now, the fact is that there is no such “immense strike” in the contemplation of Mr. James O’Connell or any other member of the Organized Scabbery which runs the rank and file of the International Association of Machinists; this O’Connell can no more give the order of command to “150,000 machinists” than our office cat could; he is not at the “head of a formidable force;” nor is there any such hurry on the part of firms to “sign the contract.” The fact is that periodically the O’Connells need dues, or revenue. The fact is that the machinists, the same as all the other workingmen, are experiencing harder and ever harder conditions. The fact is the O’Connell Organized Scabbery is ever ready to exploit the wretched condition of the rank and file: hence every few months or so they burst upon the public with threats of “great demands” and great promises to the rank and file of “great success.” The fact is that both the “great demands” and the “great promises of success” are baits; the unthinking and hard-worked rank and file among the machinists are expected to flock to the organization, attracted by its alleged large numbers,—that brings in dues; and while this is going on, some employer or another, who gets scared, “sees” the Organized Scabbery, whereupon a lying report is issued of a “great victory.” Revenue for the precious officers, justly styled the “Organized Scabbery,” is the moving spring and aim of the whole manoeuvre. It was conspicuously so last year. It

is well for the rank and file if it is no worse. The conduct of the plutocratic press in puffing the sails of the Organized Scabbery with lying reports, such as indicated above, may bring on worse; it is calculated to bring on “Albany Bloodsheds.”

The falsity of the tenets preached by the disreputable crew of the O’Connells, the Gomperses, the Mitchells,—the Organized Scabbery, for short,—may not yet be fathomed by the rank and file; nevertheless these no longer take in the thing the stock they once did. As a result, the Fakirs may beat the tin-kettle of “great demands” and “great promises” all they like, the bees have refused to swarm. If the swarming is slight, no great harm is done. The harm, the “Albany Bloodsheds,” come when the swarming is great.

Workingmen don’t join unions for pastime. They join to improve their condition. The theories on which they are fed by the Organized Scabbery are absurd. They are taught that Capital and Labor are Brothers, with identical interests; they are thus switched from the only path by which improvement is possible. Thus emasculated in mind, when Brother Labor feels the iron of Brother Capital entering his flesh, in the shop, the duped Giant Labor gets angry. If he sees but few others in his O’Connell-Gompers style of organization, the Giant grumbles only; if, however, he sees many in that organization, then he strikes out with his fist, and being untutored by his leaders, he strikes in the air, with the result that he runs his head up against the bayonets of sanitarily conducted Armories, placed by himself (by the advice of the Organized Scabbery) in the hands of his alleged Brother Capital.—Net results: “Albany Bloodsheds.”

Accordingly, the lying reports, that the plutocratic press is publishing just now, anent the large number of machinists that are flocking to O’Connell’s standard, can have no purpose other than that of laying the pipes for more massacres of Labor. These reports may succeed in arousing the rank and file of the machinists to run and be corralled by the Organized Scabbery of the O’Connells. In that case the moment is bound to come when the machinists will demand of their O’Connells “the reason why,” just as the conductors and motormen of Albany demanded “the reason why” from the Fakir Mahon; the O’Connells, like Mahon, in this instance, will be unable to repress the storm; having raked in their dues, and danger being abroad, they will make tracks for their “hums,” and the rank and file will be left to pay with its blood for the folly of having allowed itself to be taken in again by these Labor Lieutenants of the Capitalist Class,—the O’Connells, Gomperses, Mahons, etc.

Can it be that the plutocratic press realizes that the volume of discontent is

growing among the workingmen, and that the plutocratic press, by means of lying reports, is seeking to steer the discontent into the ranks of “pure and simpledom,” where it can be neatly bayoneted and sabred into “order,” i.e., conveyed to hospitals and graves?

Quite likely!

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

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