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EDITORIAL

## THE SHOW IN WALL STREET.

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**G**REAT was the scene enacted on the 4th instant, down in Wall street, in the conference room of the American Steel Trust Company. The stars in the performance, occupying the center of the stage, on the one hand, Mr. Schwab, President of the Corporation, with a retinue of subsidiaries, and, on the other hand, Messrs. Samuel Gompers and John Mitchell, President of the American Federation of Labor and of the United Mine Workers respectively, with Henry Korkowsky, alias Harry White, of the Garment Workers and "Secretary Easley" of a non-descript concern called the "Civic Federation," acting as "supes." The meeting was called a "conference." The subject was the steel strike. The conference lasted all day, and went the way of all such conferences between "Brother Capitalist" and "Brother Labor:" "Brother Labor" got left as badly as usual.

But not in this fact lay the "greatness" of the scene. Such scenes have become stale and proportionally insignificant by iteration and re-iteration. No doubt the spectacle, in itself, is monumental of "Brother Labor" strutting up, under fakir guidance, with a lot of stage thunder behind it, and, despite the noise of its alleged "two million membership," producing no effect other than stirring the risible muscles of "Brother Capital;" no doubt the spectacle, in itself, is monumental of "Brother Labor," fakir-led, swaggering up before "Brother Capitalist," and finding all its stage paint and tinsel, its paper crowns and tin swords of "pure and simple" economics drop from it, like so much trash, before the stern fact that the Labor Question is essentially a political question, and that he who places the capitalist Labor-fleecer in political power has no standing in Court when he seeks to escape the results of his own stupidity and perverseness. In so far as all this is concerned, the spectacle was none of the slightest. Yet, great as that spectacle was, it was not the real thing in this instance. And what was that?

At the very time that President Schwab was screwing the muscles of his face into a smile of affability, and "Presidents" Gompers and Mitchell were casting their

features into a mold of stage sternness, the “ticker” in the contiguous office was marking time to the funeral march of another organization of which also Gompers is “President-Paramount,” and of which the said Mitchell is “President-Subordinate,”—the United Mine Workers.

The leading bituminous coal mining Companies in the six leading coal States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia and Kentucky are being consolidated into one gigantic, \$200,000,000 combine; and coal being a tributary industry to steel, the consolidator is none other than the great financial soul of the Steel Trust itself, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan himself. In other words, the same conditions that have placed the Shaffer fakir-led steel workers at the mercy of Mr. Morgan, are now being brought on to place another constituency of President-Paramount Gompers, and dupes of President-Subordinate Mitchell also at Mr. Morgan’s feet. And thus the public has been treated to the great show of a conference, held between “Brother Capitalist” and “Brother Labor,” to the tune of the funeral march of yet another limb of “Brother Labor.” “Brother Labor” was “conferring” about the obsequies of one of its limbs, while another limb was being gotten ready by the conferee “Brother Capital” for a similar conference in the immediate future.

Query: “Why does not Gompers take lodgings for himself nearby the office of the Steel Trust, with a spare room for the next “Presidents subordinate” of the next “powerful pure and simple” Union, of his “tremendously powerful A.F. of L.,” over whose remains successive conferences will be held? Why does not Gompers go into the undertakers’ business, and change his title to “President of Pure and Simple Funeral Processions?”

The show to which Morgan’s “ticker” will furnish the orchestration with the “leitmotiv” of “Next!” may be distressing, but it will be great, and striking enough to help put an end to the agony, shoving Gompers and Gompersism into the politico-economic grave that the relentless law of social evolution has dug for both, clear the way for bona fide Unionism, and thus urge on the emancipation of the Working Class.

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