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EDITORIAL

THAT “NOBLY WAGED CLASS STRUGGLE” AGAIN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THERE is in Congress a bill known as H.R. 5777. Its purpose is to amend the law relating to copyright. At present, the two copies required to be deposited with the Librarian of Congress must be printed from type set, or from negatives, or drawings on stone made within the limits of the United States, or from plates made therefrom. Bill H.R. 5777 proposes to abolish that. The copies to be deposited with the Government are to be freed from the restriction of being set up or plated in the country. On its face, the bill is in the interest of literary or art piracy. The fact may be cloaked by free trade declamation, and the issue may be still more beclouded by patriotic rantings of its adversaries. In fact, however, both the law and the proposed bill are whirls in the vortex of conflicting capitalist interests. To one set of lithographic bosses the present law is a hindrance, to others it is a protection. With this quarrel the working class has no concern. Whichever boss wins, they, the workers, remain down: their wages continue to be determined by the supply of and demand for their labor: they continue in wage-slavery, which means that their struggle for existence will continue to increase. The class-conscious workingman, the class-conscious labor organization would, accordingly, turn the cold shoulder to the whole dispute, and, if approached by either of the disputants to join in the fray, dismiss them with a sharp: “A plague on both your houses!”

Not so with the fakir-led pure and simple Union. Accordingly, the “Lithographers’ International Protective and Beneficial Association of the United States and Canada,” has come out with a printed circular, signed by its “President” and “Secretary,” inviting the public to exercise pressure upon Congress in favor of the bill. What does this mean? It means that the said fakir-led pure and simple organization takes sides with the employers who have an interest in H.R. 5777; that it thereby takes sides against those employers of some of its own members who are against the bill; that thereby it sets itself

in opposition to some of its own members, who hereupon are used by their employers to pronounce against the bill; and finally, that thereby it splits up its own ranks.

To take part in the conflicts of the capitalist class is a certain means for workingmen to wreck the Labor Movement. Capitalist interests conflict. The identification of one set of workers with one capitalist interest sets them at war with the workers who depend upon employers with hostile interests. And such is the uniform conduct of fakir-led Unionism; and such is the conduct that the Kangaroo Social Democracy glories by styling "a nobly waging of the class struggle"

Class-consciousness solidifies the working class: it enables them to perceive and adhere closely to the line of the class struggle; guided thereby, the workers stand united: the class interests of the working class are identical. Pure and simple, so far from adhering to the line marked out by the class struggle, scatters like chaff before the wind of opposing capitalist interests; it thereby and therefore divides and keeps divided the ranks of the working class; it therefore fills an ignoble role. It stands in the way of the workers' emancipation and deserves annihilation.

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