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EDITORIAL

PEACE IN WARSAW.

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AT the recent convention of the anthracite miners certain express demands were formulated against the employers, and a speedy strike was threatened in the event of a refusal. The only postponement contemplated was in the event of a conference which the operators had refused to join in. The strike is now off for a full month, which is the same as saying that it is off for good, or that, if at all declared, the employers will have had ample time to make preparations that will insure its speedy collapse. What is it that happened in between the decision of the convention and the decision to “lay off?” Something must have happened. And something did. And what was that something?

That something was the same thing that scuttled the Boston Teamsters’ strike, the same thing that immediately after scuttled all the chances of the paper workers’ strike for improved conditions. That something was the Civic Federation, the “Industrial Peace,” the Conciliation and Arbitration body of which Hanna is President, and which, even so, could do little were not such birds of evil omen to Labor as Vice-President Gompers enrolled among its officers. Again the electric spark of the class instincts of the workers was led into the ground, and again—how else could it be?—the feat was accomplished through the instrumentality of the men whom, in its blind superstition, the rank and file looked upon as representatives of the interests of the Working Class.

There will be peace, there will be harmony, there will be quiet; but the peace, the harmony, the quiet will partake essentially of the qualities of the article such as it has become known through the expression “Peace in Warsaw,”—a peace brought on by an iron hand of despotism, that made death its only alternative.

In the midst of all this, and by the very reason of all this, the question is rising, What is the means by which this modern “Peace in Warsaw” is being enforced. The

old article was enforced by visible and tangible guns and bayonets. What is it that enforces the modern article? Surely neither the teamsters, nor the garment workers, nor the paper workers, nor yet the coal miners, imagine now, or will later on, that their condition has been improved? What promises are these masses hushed into silence with, or what threats are they being cowed by? The feature of "Warsaw Peaces" is that they are subject to explosions. The present "Industrial Peace" Commission is laying up material for a tremendous explosion.

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