

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 90.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1902.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

## THE “E AND E UNION” AN “N.G. UNION.”

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**T**HERE is hardly a day passes but what some genius discovers a solution of the labor question! Some men seem to regard that day badly spent in which some new solvent is not added to the already superabundant and useless number. Now, then, all hail to the latest! the discovery of a manufacturer of a cereal food that is warranted to put grey matter in the heads of brain workers and strength in the muscles of athletes. He calls it the “E and E Union.”

“Under the ruling of the new union a contract,” to quote the grey matter and muscle builder, “is entered into between the employer and the employee for six months or a year at a rate mutually fixed. The employer deposits a satisfactory bond in the hands of the treasurer of the union equal in amount to twenty-five dollars for every employee, and each employee deposits each pay day two cents on the dollar of his pay until he has deposited with the treasurer of the union the sum of twenty-five dollars.

“If the employer does not keep his agreement he forfeits \$25 to the employee, and the employee likewise forfeits out of the sum he may have on deposit up to \$25 if he fails to keep his contract.”

The trouble with this “new” union is that it is old, very old. It has been tried and found wanting and if the parties with whom it originated were asked to name it they would call it the “N.G. Union.” They are inclined, when speaking of it, to draw on their grey matter for descriptive terms, with an energy that would require considerable cereal food of any kind to make good the expenditure. And the man who proposes it to them is likely to encounter a waste of muscle that will cause the same thing to hold good again.

The “principle” at the bottom of the “E. and E. Union,” is precisely the same as that which existed in the agreement entered into for one year by the firm and employees of Wichert and Gardiner, shoe manufacturers, Brooklyn, N.Y. The firm deposited a check

of ten thousand with a trust company and the employees paid five per cent. on their weekly earnings until a sum equalling \$25 for each male and \$15 for each female employee was created and deposited with the firm at six per cent. interest.

During the year in which the agreement was in force the employees suffered greatly. The agreement had the effect of destroying united action among them. Rather than forfeit his or her \$25 or \$15 each and every employee submitted to impositions and exactions. This resulted in a determination on the part of the employees to rid themselves of an agreement which had proven so onerous to them and so profitable to their employers. They, accordingly, struck at its termination against a demand for its renewal. For six weeks the "E. and E. Union" had it out, and by a strange irony of fate, the very fund which the employees had created by their weekly percentage payments, and which had been the means of their degradation, now became the means of their relief. Utilizing this fund, with the six per cent. interest paid by the firm, the strikers were enabled to stay out until the firm surrendered, by granting an increase of wages and better conditions.

This in brief is the history of the original "E. and E. Union" and its transformation into the "N.G. Union."

It shows that like most labor solutions advocated by employers, the "E. and E. Union" is of temporary benefit to employers only. It endures until found out by the degraded workers. Then it becomes impotent and denounced.

We respectfully suggest that the new exponent of the "E. and E. Union" diet on his own cereal food in order to create sufficient grey matter and strong muscle to tackle the labor question in a manner that will solve it.

There is only one union that will solve the labor question: that is the "C. and L. Union"—the union of capital and labor in production by the abolition of the capitalist class, thus ending the divorce between the workers and the means of production and distribution.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded October 2006