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EDITORIAL

SIC SEMPER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE *American Federationist*, official organ of the A.F. of L., has in this month's issue an editorial, which it would be a pity if the obscurity of the paper should keep hidden under a bushel. The editorial contains this passage:

In connection with the work of the New Orleans convention, much misapprehension exists in regard to a resolution discussed and defeated. Beyond doubt this misapprehension was owing to the perversion of the newspaper reports.

The enemies of the trades union movement have lost no opportunity to declare, and we have had to meet the assertion on several occasions since the close of the convention, that a so-called "Socialist" resolution came near being adopted. As a matter of fact, the resolution to which reference is made is as follows:

Resolved, That this twenty-second annual convention of the American Federation of Labor advise the working people to organize their economic and political power to secure for labor the full equivalent of its toil.

It will be seen that this resolution is not of the character of which so much has been heard in the newspapers, in the forum and in public debates. As a matter of fact, a large number of delegates who voted for the resolution declared that they were not Socialists, and would not vote for a resolution declaring for Socialism.

This is authoritative language. And powerful is the light it throws upon the field.

The many-winged fowl of the Social Democratic, alias "Socialist" party, has upon the Trades Union question two winglets. The one, in strict consistency with the backbone of the bird, flaps to the tune that a Socialist political party should "bore from within," i.e., be subservient to the labor fakirs, not on the economic field only, but on the political also; the other, at odds with its own anatomy, that the "boring from within" should be limited to the economic field. As a matter of course, both wings have been, and continue, flapping in concert upon the resolution above commented on and

characterized by the *Federationist*. The tune is: “We are boring successfully”; “The labor leaders are being drawn our way”; “We almost won at New Orleans”; “The lie has been given to the Socialist Labor Party, the next convention of the A.F. of L. will sound the death knell and destroy the last vestige of pure and simple trade unionism”. We may here dismiss the wingleet that consistently subordinates itself to the labor fakirs to the point of fusing with them politically. Tho’ the honesty revealed by its consistency deserves credit, yet it is so hopelessly visionary as to render hopeless its appreciation of the crack over its head that the *Federationist* administers to it. Moreover its very sincerity makes it an object of pity, deserving rather of charity than derision.

Not so with the other wingleet. The obvious dishonesty of its attitude towards the labor fakirs renders the language of the *Federationist* peculiarly savory. That wingleet has, as its pin-feather Fred Long of Philadelphia let out, sought to stick its fingers into the Union treasuries and “prestige” from the labor fakirs by an attitude of obscene hostility towards the Socialist Labor Party: it lowered itself to the level of retailer of every slander that the fakirs set afloat against the S.L.P.; it strutted as THE especial “upholder of the Unions”. And what happened? It got some pennies, but the fakirs now bestow upon it the contempt that ever is in store for “the doers of dirty work”. The *Federationist* not only gives the lie direct to the claims of this wingleet, not only exposes the set as flim-flammers, but it rubs in the merited affront by pronouncing “enemies of the trade union movement” those who, as this set has done, “declare that a so-called ‘Socialist’ resolution came near being adopted”!!!

Sic semper fraudibus.

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