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EDITORIAL

“ABOLISH THE SWEATSHOP”—ONCE MORE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A CERTAIN writer in a certain paper has this to say, under the caption, “The Truth About the Sweatshops”: “There is a popular notion—which is a popular error—that the sweatshop has been practically abolished, at least so far as New York is concerned * * * * The union supporter means well * * * * But such ignorance is damaging to the cause of labor * * * * There still exists on the East Side innumerable examples of sweating and tenement drudgery and slavery that constitute a blighting shame and curse upon civilization. There are factory and child labor laws; but where their provisions would reach the sweating dens the laws are in many cases not enforced * * * * And the law itself recognizes and legalizes the debasing and destructive influences of the tenement sweatshop.”

Who is this writer? What is the name of this paper? Is he a Socialist Labor Party man? Is the paper the *Daily* or *Weekly People*? And are both, in the language of that superlative bombast, Gompers, “intent on maliciously deriding and belittling the great and glorious achievements of organized labor on the industrial field and in the halls of legislation?” No! thrice no!! The writer is the notorious penman of the corrupt “labor” politicians and “leaders,” J.R. Buchanan. The paper is the malodorous and yellow *Evening Journal*. The intention is “to abolish the sweatshop” once more, through the election to the legislature of a few of the traffickers on the wrongs of labor with whom Buchanan trains, and whom the *Yellow Journal* exploits in the business and political interests of its owner. Once more is the sweatshop to be “abolished” by the labor fakirs and their allies in the manner that it has been “abolished” so often before—to their own exclusive profit and gain; and the perpetuation of the capitalist system, on which it is based.

But this process will not continue indefinitely. The workers, aided by experience and the teachings of the Socialist Labor Party, are learning the truth.

They are noting the way their misfortunes are exploited; and the way, after each of these “abolitions,” the labor fakirs and their allies are convicted of duplicity out of their own mouths. Hence they are perceiving that the first step toward the abolition of the sweatshop is the abolition of the labor fakir; the next, the abolition of the capitalist class, whose tool he is. With this done, they are correctly aware that the abolition of the sweatshops will be a certainty, and not an indefinite device for furnishing the labor fakirs and their capitalist allies with a sumptuous livelihood at the expense 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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