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SECOND EDITORIAL

LABOR (?) PAPERS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

One of the vilest things in our social life to-day is the so-called “labor paper.” Catering to the ignorance of the working class and exploiting their inherent honesty and kindness, the “labor paper” is worse than the big capitalist paper insomuch as the penny-catching swindler is more contemptible than the gigantic fraud.

Pretending to voice the interests of the workers, the “labor paper” indulges in meaningless rant about “justice,” “equality,” etc., and carries on a flirtation with half-baked, would-be socialists between elections, and then either gets on the side with the most money, or blackmails candidates on both sides.

A conspicuous example of this cheap and nasty journalism is *The Pueblo Courier*, of Pueblo, Colorado. Under the heading “Labor Politics” it gives an account of a meeting of pure and simple union-men to organize a club which will “work with one of the old political parties.” The editors of this Western misleader know that this is no more labor politics than their sheet is a labor paper.

In another column they print an invitation of the Pueblo Trades Assembly to the unorganized laboring men to get in the “union” parade on Labor Day and show their gratitude to the “Hon. T.M. Patterson, for his services on behalf of the eight-hour day”—which they have not got. The purpose, of course, is to have the workers parade like voting cattle to display the “influence” of the labor fakirs whom the *Pueblo Courier* works for.

Right below this is a notice to union-men that a certain miner has been “published” as a backslider from the union through a mistake and calls on them to “treat him as a brother.”

Emanating from the garbage box of over-ripe capitalism; impressed with all the vices of the labor fleecing class; and fattening on the ignorance of the proletariat, the “labor” papers of the *Pueblo Courier* brand, by their very existence furnish an indictment of the present social system.

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