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EDITORIAL

THE SAM PARKS DEVELOPMENT.

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IN a previous article the events were summarized that clustered around Sam Parks.¹ It was there indicated that Parks was in the nature of a foot-ball kicked hither and thither by capitalist concerns and their political ramifications, and that the experience Parks was making is the sad experience that sooner or later is bound to force itself upon any workingman who ignores the laws of capitalism and imagines he can play the capitalist game. Subsequent developments have added corroborative arguments, and the arguments are pregnant with meaning.

First came the summary suspension of Parks' union by the International President Buchanan, and Parks' characterization of the act as "a sell out to the building contractors for which the seller out must have obtained \$50,000 as easily as rolling off a log."

Then came the letter of Thomas A. Fulton of the Citizens' Union prodding Jerome to "start the procession to Sing Sing."

Finally came Parks' triumph at Kansas City, where he mopped the floor with his suspending International President, had the delegation of his union triumphantly seated, and bounced the Neidig delegation, pointing at them for "scabs."

The Parks episode is an episode in the municipal campaign, so-called, that this city is now entering. So absolutely national is every incident in the country to-day that the municipal campaign, said to be "local" and to be fought between "Decency" and "Indecency" in this city, reached all the way to Kansas City. The building trades interests, which are grouped in the two camps of Tammany and Fusion, defrayed

¹ [See "Political Astronomy," *Daily People*, September 12, 1903—R.B.]

much of the expenses of the Kansas City convention of the Bridge & Structural Iron Workers. Parks has furnished facts as to one side. If he only would furnish facts as to the other side!

Apart from the lesson taught as to where the scabs are to be found, and as to what the term “scab” amounts to, the Parks developments should be taken to heart as indicative of the power latent in organized labor for good, for the emancipation of Labor, provided such power is intelligently husbanded, and also of the pitiful picture that labor presents when it abandons its own field, forgets its class distinctions, and sets itself up on the field of capital. On the one field Labor is a Samson, on the other it is a foot-ball.

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