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EDITORIAL

THE TIME FOR TWADDLE IS AT END.

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THE *Miners' Magazine*, published in Denver, Colo., bears under its name the information that it is “published weekly BY the Western Federation of Miners.” This means that it is the official organ of the body and as such both its mouthpiece and instructor. The further circumstance that the paper has reached the sixty-sixth number of its fourth volume is an evidence that it is not an upstart, wild cat affair. It is fair to take it as an illustration of the standard of education it imparts to workingmen in these days of general confusion when the most important thing to do is to aid the workingman in picking out his way through the tangle.

The organization of the Western Federation of Miners is going through an unparalleled experience in the class struggle. The experience is unparalleled both by reason of its vigor and the length of the crisis; it is also exceptional by reason of the widespread attention that it has called upon itself. Courts have been disbanded by the threat of the halter made by a military commander; men have been deported without warrant or process of law; mines peacefully at work have been ordered closed by the same military commander, who is a private employe of a competing mine; in short, all the guarantees of the law have been walked over rough-shod—all with the knowledge and consent of the Government. Nor is this all.

While the struggle of a class, the Capitalist Class, has been against another class, the Working Class, a sub-struggle, the struggle between competing divisions of the Capitalist Class itself for the mastery of the public powers, set in at its stated time—the elections. Each set of capitalists strives for political power. What political power in the hands of either means, experience has established. It means a change of opportunities for the set that wins, with no change whatever for the Working Class. This sub-struggle being on, both subdivisions of the Capitalist Class are seen

to indulge in their usual practice of pretending to be animated with a Law and Order love for the Working Class; and, as usually, the capitalist subdivision that is out and would like to come in is full of denunciation against the acts of the one that is in and wishes to continue in power. But at this point of the game the situation in Colorado is forcing upon the workingmen an object lesson of priceless value. It is this: That all the claims of friendship for the workers and of hostility towards the “crimes” of the party in power are false pretences. The object lesson lies in the Democratic nominee for Governor—the man set up as the embodiment of the contrary of all that Peabody is blamed for. The Democratic nominee is Alva Adams. The gentleman is no unknown quantity in Colorado. Alva Adams has twice been Governor of Colorado, and while in office WAS HIMSELF CONFRONTED WITH THE CAPITALIST TASK OF PUTTING DOWN THE JUST ASPIRATIONS OF LABOR, and PERFORMED HIS TASK LIKE A LITTLE MAN—he acted just as Peabody would have acted. The nomination of Alva Adams is an object lesson furnished by the capitalist class to the workers of Colorado, the miners in particular. It shows the Capitalist Class pretending one thing with one eye, and winking something else with the other. It is a pledge to capitalism that it need not fear. How does the *Miners’ Magazine* use the object lesson thus furnished free, gratis and for nothing? Let the paper speak for itself. In its issue of September 29 it speaks in these words of the Democratic convention and of its nominee for governor:

“The greatest work of the convention resolved itself upon the selection of a candidate for governor. The Democratic party in all probability, in the selection of Hon. Alva Adams of Pueblo, nominated the strongest man in the ranks of the party. Alva Adams has been clothed upon two occasions with the highest honor in the gift of the people of Colorado.

“During his two terms of office, as chief executive of the State, he discharged his duties in a manner that has made him the idol of his party, and now, when the clouds of disaster have shadowed with gloom the bosom of the Centennial State, the party has turned to him as the Moses to lead them back from the darkness into the light of peace.

“Adams as a man, as an upholder of the law and the constitution of the State, as a humanitarian and as a governor of a great commonwealth, stands as high above Peabody as the giant California pine above the scrubby oak. They are no more to be compared with each other than the Bengal tiger and the polecat. Adams can listen to reason, and has room in his make-up to take into consideration every question that affects the

people of Colorado.

“The election of Peabody means more of the conflict that has disgraced Colorado and made this State the Siberia of America. The defeat of Peabody means the relegation of a political tool, who has served his masters well, but his defeat will mean that the people have as yet some reverence for the constitution and the laws of the State.”

Adams “a man of character!” Adams “discharged his duties” well! Adams expected “to lead from darkness into the light of peace!” Adams “a humanitarian!” Adams a man who “listens to reason!” And so forth!

It matters not what Socialistic phrases and theories the *Miners' Magazine* indulges in. Its practice is of the old stamp. It is the old practice of pure and simpledom, tried before and the track of which is reddened with Labor's blood, strewn with wreckage. It is the practice of personal revenges, hitting one foe by setting up another. It is the practice which, in the common, even vulgar parlance, relegates labor to the role of being “played for a sucker.”

He is untrue to his ministry in the camp of Labor who helps to perpetuate the sense of weakness in the Working Class. Labor's battles can be fought only by itself. Labor's triumph can be brought about only by the victory of its own, never by the victory of the Capitalist Class candidates.

For no capitalist candidate has the Socialist Labor Party, or any organ of the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance, one word of praise. The tried ones have all proved true to their class alone; the untried ones cannot do otherwise. Their victory must ever spell D-E-F-E-A-T to Labor. This is the secret of the class struggle.

Unconfused by the conflict of theory and practice, every workingman in Colorado whose path has been unmined by the beacon of the Socialist Labor Party will cast his gubernatorial vote for I.A. Knight, and throughout the country all such workingmen will cast their Presidential vote for Corregan and Cox.

Is it not high time for pure and simple twaddle to cease?

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