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EDITORIAL

“NEUTRALITY” HORSEWHIPPED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE preliminary report, published elsewhere in this issue, of the joint discussion held by Section Cincinnati, Socialist Labor Party, and Local Cincinnati, Socialist Party, together with the resolution there unanimously adopted, pronouncing against the A.F. of L. and for the I.W.W., is, not a straw, but a stout beam of the many stout beams that are telling the direction in which, not the formerly sluggish stream, but the now torrential flood of the American Labor Movement has begun to flow.¹

Whether the theory of “Neutrality” on the field of Unionism ever had a legitimate place in the camp of a party of Socialism is now an idle question. Fact is that, even if such a theory ever was legitimate, that time is past, has long passed by, and has long been a barrier to the consolidation of the Working Class—the sine qua non to its liberation. That barrier is now being crashed through. In the ripeness of Time robustious facts have cumulated to enlighten the honest and intelligent. Craft, or “pure and simple”, or Gompers Unionism has been openly hailed by the *Wall Street Journal* as “one of the strongest obstacles to Socialism in this country”; with the shamelessness born of long success in the practice of treason, the Gompers-Mitchell labor-lieutenants of the Capitalist Class have openly shaken hands, in offensive and defensive alliance against the Working Class, with their capitalist colonels, field marshaled by August Belmont in the Civic Federation; finally, just now, when the Capitalist Class is caught red-handed in a felonious assault, with intent to murder, upon Moyer and Haywood, the leading personalities in the, so far, strongest Department of the I.W.W., the Western Federation of Miners,—just now, that same Capitalist Class hastens, through its mouth-piece, the *Evening Post*, to

¹ [To be appended at a later date.—R.B.]

justify itself to itself by winkingly reminding its membership that the Western Federation of Miners had “become so strong . . . FINALLY TO STAND ALONE WHENEVER THE SUPPORT OF MR. MITCHELL’S UNITED MINE WORKERS OR MR. GOMPERS’S AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN”.

These be robustious, luminous facts. He who henceforth talks “Neutrality” in the Socialist political camp is either a knave, or, worse yet, a dolt. The militant Socialist in the Movement carries his life in his hands. Such lives are too precious to be put in jeopardy by either blindness to knavery, or tolerance of dolts. “Trades Union disputes”, so called, are manifestations of the Class Struggle. “Neutrality” spells desertion of the Class Struggle. Deserters of the Class Struggle ever, instinctively, unavoidably settle down in line with the foe of the Working Class. At the joint discussion of the two Socialist political organizations of Cincinnati, the brilliantly eloquent words of E.K. Vaupel of the S.P. were harmoniously mingled with the thunder notes of the S.L.P. National Organizer, the miner Philip Veal, the two twisting a cord that horsewhipped, as it deserved, the now unquestionably doltish, if not knavish, theory concerning “Neutrality”, by a bona fide party of Socialism, on the economic field.

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