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EDITORIAL

## CLEAR THE WAY—IT WILL NOT DOWN.

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**E**VEN if, as some of the despatches from the Indianapolis United Mine Workers' convention report, the constitutional change of striking out the clause that forbade the organization to take any political stand, and of substituting the same with a new clause urging the miners "to unite on the political as well as the industrial field," was made in order to enable the Union to endorse the Socialist party,—even if that was the purpose of the constitutional amendment—even then the move deserves applause, hearty applause and cheers.

The Union that forbids, or ignores, the recognition of united political action as a necessary weapon of the Labor Movement—that Union, either denies the mission of Unionism to be the overthrow of the capitalist class, and then the Union is but an appendix to the Capitalist Social Order; or that Union does propose to fulfill the mission Unionism, and overthrow capitalism, but it is so uniformed that it nullifies its own purposes, and then the Union is a gravel-in-the-shoe of the Socialist Movement. In the former case, the Union degenerates into a Civic-Federationized and Militia-of-Christized affair; in the latter case the Union fatedly rottens into a roosting place for the slummary that attracts, if it does not breed, the "agent provocateur." In either case, that Union is harmful to the Working Class.

So cardinal a principle of the Labor Movement is the "unity of the Working Class on the political as well as on the industrial field," that, even if a Union were to pronounce for the Republican party of Top-Capitalism, or for the Democratic party of Middle Classism, the pronouncement would record progress, and as such would deserve applause.

The Unionman who goes to work in the shop which is under the ban of a strike is justly branded a "scab." The identical reasoning and ethics entitles and urges the Union to pronounce a "scab" whomsoever of its members gives aid and comfort to

the political agents of the employer. The hitherto failure on the part of the Union to do so is due to the Union's failure to pronounce itself for a specific political party; and the Union's failure so to pronounce itself is due to the Union's failure to realize that, upon the identical principle which establishes that, without united action in the shop, no hope could there be of keeping up wages, without united action at the hustings, no hope can there be to resist the employer.

The decision on the part of a Union to "unite the workers on the political as well as on the industrial field" is the first step "out of the woods." That step once taken, that principle once planted upon, the rest follows—is bound to follow.

The rest to follow is but the application of the principle. The application may be faulty, as certainly it would be were the Union to pronounce itself for a party of capital, like the Republican or the Democratic. The application, we hold, would be lame were the Union to pronounce itself for the Socialist party, the same being saturated with bourgeois economics and instincts. But, be all this as it may, the cable of the correct principle once gripped by a Union, bound is the Union to correct whatever error it may incur in the application—bound is the Union, eventually, if not sooner, to make the correct application.

The decision of the United Mine Workers' Convention to snap the bonds that tied the Union's political arm, and its further decision to unite the miners "upon the political as well as the industrial field" is an event fit to arouse the enthusiasm of the Socialist Labor Party, and steel its sinews with the assurance that its labors are fruitful—with the assurance that the Truth, unflinchingly stuck to, must prevail.

It is no accident that, from the same workers' convention that now unites political and economic action, the cry has gone up, "Away from the A.F. of L.! That cry went up from the S.T. and L.A.; it then went up from the I.W.W.; it was now heard in the miners' camp—it is a cry that can not be smothered—it is a cry, the result of many others, "United Political and Economic Action," leading, that will yet set up the bona fide Union of the American proletariat, and thereby clear the path for the Emancipation of the Working Class.

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