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EDITORIAL

A Field Ripe for the S.T. & L.A.

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The addresses delivered by the officers of the United Mine Workers before the Seventh Annual Convention of the body, last month, are such a confession of bankruptcy that we call the attention of the Executive Board of the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance to the miners as a field that is ripe, and certainly awaiting the deliverer's hand.

The central point of the addresses is admission by secretary Patrick McBryde that "previous to the formation of the United Mine Workers, the coal trade had, for several years, enjoyed an era of comparative prosperity," and that it was "much better than it will be in the future," coupled with the statement that the existing conditions "are impossible to overcome."

Attached to the addresses is a statement of incomes and expenditures. From these it appears that \$17,046.08 were collected from the men as taxes, and that together with other sources of revenue, the union received \$21,944.02. Of this gross amount, \$14,598.85 were spent in "officers' salary and expenses," while \$510.45 went to the A.F. of L.

The question is germane, If the conditions, before the union was set up, were better; if these conditions are to be worse yet; and if it is further admitted by the officers that it is impossible for them to overcome these conditions, of what earthly use is the union other than to furnish \$14,598.85 salaries to its officers and contribute \$510.45 contributions to the A.F. of L. officials, all of whom sit with their hands in their laps, or at best with their fingers in their own hair utterly impotent to understand, let alone solve, the problem before them?

The conditions that now oppress labor ARE possible to overcome; but ignoramuses will not do the work. Let these ignorant leaders step aside. If they don't they will certainly be thrust aside to make way for the guiding hands that need no \$17,046.02 salaries.

Let the S.T. & L.A. fall to: the outraged and long ridden miner calls to it for deliverance.

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

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