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EDITORIAL

AN AFTERMATH OF SHAME.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Sept. 3d witnessed the same old disgraceful sight of the labor fakir marshaling his dues-paying dupes in line and parading them before the ever watchful Democrat or Republican politicians, as an earnest of the fakir's vote-controlling "infloence." Again were the wage slaves trotted past stands to be "reviewed" by the labor fleecers, and their lackeys, whose contempt for the honest but misled rank and file was thus increased.

Instead of a procession bearing banners inscribed: "We have nothing to lose but our chains," officered by class-conscious rebels to the rule of the capitalist and a rank and file animated by the ideal of Freedom, there was the vile motto: "Fair day's wage" and a scabby crew of traitors to officer a rank and file not yet awakened to the dignity and duty of the wage worker.

The makes-shifts that proclaim themselves "Pure and Simple non-political Unions" did the parading. Their "non-political" nature was shown by invitations to Republican and Democratic vote-buyers to be on hand and see what the labor fakir had in stock. It was shown the day before by an incident that occurred at a meeting of the Central Fakirated Union where the clapper clawing of the Dems and Reps occupies the time of this "non-political" body.

One Edward Kelly, a delegate, takes the floor and lauds [Dick Croker](#) and Tammany as follows:

"I saw Mr. Croker at the Democratic Club, and he assured me that he would use all efforts to have the city's electrical work done by the members of my union. I saw a delinquent member of Union No. 3 working in the club, and I pointed him out to Mr. Croker, telling who the man was. Mr. Croker immediately walked over to the man and told him to go out, and not come back until he had straightened things with the union. Sure enough, the man paid up all his arrears the next day and got a clean card. I tell you, Croker is a true friend of labor. He told me so, and said that if the unions

wanted anything all they had to do was to command him.”

Then to prove how purely and simply non-political he is, he adds:

“I make my report as a union man, and not as a politician.”

Whether this leader (?) led the “Hastily Organized Tammanyite Dive Employees Yoonyun” in the parade yesterday, we are not informed. But he did not carry off all the honors from the Central Fakirated Union, for another “non-political” delegate got the floor and announced:

“That the Bowery lodging houses were being filled with pipe caulkers from Baltimore, Philadelphia and Boston brought on by Tammany contractors to work for less than union rates on the rapid transit tunnel. That the union rate of wages was \$3 a day, but these men were paid only \$2.50.

“This was another attempt of the **Tammany Hall** would-be diplomats to hoodwink the workingmen on the eve of an election.”

This worthy Republican also was speaking as a trade union man, not as a politician: “trade unionism” with his kind meaning the cheapest and dirtiest kind of capitalist politics. Tammany is vile; Croker is an implacable enemy of the working class, and so is the Republican party vile, and so are **Platt, Roosevelt** and **Hanna** unrelenting enemies of the working class. The Central Fakirated Union, with all other “Yoonyuns” of its ilk, are no less enemies, all the more for their dressing in the garb of unionism.

But the record of shame would not be complete without the evidence of the chief “non-political” parade leader, **Sam Gompers**. This cunning son of Israel is noted for two things: his ability to fleece the unfortunate Jewish cigar makers who are caught in his “Yoonyun” net, and his tact in standing in with both the Republican and Democratic parties at one and the same time.

On the eve of Labor-Fakir Day, he carefully interviewed himself for the papers. After talking about “improved industrial conditions” and “an increase of seventy per cent in the Cigar Makers’ Union” and a “membership of 650,000 in the American Federation of Labor he makes a “non-political” bluff at the managers of the Bryan-McKinley campaign, by hinting at the thousands of members who do not pay dues—but are voters.

But this aftermath of treason and shame is relieved by the actions of those

Unions that are really what their name implies. Refusing to be hoodwinked by the Republican and Democratic fakirs, these organizations refused to be led like voting cattle and abstained from parading past “union-labeled” politicians. The fighting spirit of the **Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance** is abroad in the land and the Kellys, Gompers, et al., have but little time left in which to fake: “as trade union men, and not as politicians.”

The real union men will celebrate their Labor Day and drown this aftermath of shame beneath a torrent of class-conscious votes for the only trade union candidates, Malloney and Remmel, on November 6.

Wage workers, line up for that parade of glory.

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

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