

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## HOISTED BY ITS OWN PETARD.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Buffalo *Express* expresses great indignation at a “trick of trade” resorted to by certain tobacco dealers, who “are not in the Trust,” to advertise their own goods. The trick consists in a circular, bearing the pontifical unctio: “Allied Printing Trades Council” of Milwaukee, denouncing in the usual populist vein “the octopus that stands in the way of success to the common citizen,” declaring that “it is to the interest of every good American citizen to purchase only such tobacco that bears the Union Label,”—and closing with a puff for certain firms. The *Express* is indignant at such an “unscrupulous method of advertising”; and its indignation boils over at the thought that “the plea in behalf of the firms puffed hangs on the fiction that there is no Union labor in the tobacco factories controlled by the Trust,” whereas the labor in the Trust factories is Union labor!

Enjoyable is the plight of this Trust-mouthling, hoisted by its own petard.

The facts have been piled mountain-high that prove the label of the pure and simple Union is, on the one hand, an advertising medium for capitalist firms, and, on the other hand and as a result thereof, itself an article of merchandise on which the Labor Fakir traffics. Unions untold have placed Fakirs untold at the service of firms—for good round salaries, of course,—to travel through the country, “to announce that such-and-such a firm is a ‘Union firm,’ sanctified with the label.” The “Unionism” of the shop, attested to by the label, in one and all cases cured and covered all the Union violations that continued in the respective shops: the wages and the treatment of the men continued to cry to heaven; but the “label,” sold and bought, was used by the labor-fleecing firm to stop the mouth of opposition, and thereby to puff itself,—of course at the expense of competitors, who, “Union” or no “Union,” “label” or no “label,” had either been previously chicaned by the Fakirs, or were being dieted for future “negotiations.” All this has been proved over and over again; it has been proved with greatest frequency in connection with just the International Cigarmakers’ Union and its “label,” not to mention the Harry White

Garment Workers, the Phillips Hatters, etc., and, what is more, none better know the charges to be true than the capitalist firms themselves.

In view of all this, the cause of the bitter tears shed by the *Express* is not indignation, but rage at seeing that a “trick of trade,” pursued by itself, is now turned against it. Indeed, bizarre is the posture of indignation on the part of a capitalist concern, like a capitalist newspaper, that sells its advertising columns with even-handed impartiality, taking in puffs for pay from firms that cut one another’s throat,—bizarre is the posture of indignation, struck by such a practicer of capitalist business harlotry, at the identical practice indulged in by the nasty imitator of the capitalist—the Labor Fakir.

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