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EDITORIAL

## WELL FOR THE LITHOGRAPHERS.

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**A**T the last national convention of the organization then known as the “Lithographic Artists’ Engravers’ and Designers’ League of America,” and which changed its name to “International Union of Lithographic Workmen,” a new Declaration of Principles was adopted the first paragraph of which reads:

“The International Union of Lithographic Workmen, in Convention assembled, hereby declares its disapproval of a trades union form of organization based exclusively on craft lines, and favors the abandonment of that prevailing form of organization and the substitution therefor of another, based on industrial lines.”

The correspondent by whose courtesy this office is furnished with the new constitution and laws of this body, himself an officer thereof, accompanies the document with a letter in which, alluding to the recent defeat suffered by the organization, this passage occurs:

“This is all along the line of industrial unionism, and an indication of the fact that another organization has been advanced by defeat.”

This is well for the lithographers. The march of the Labor Movement is not a dress parade, nor is it a triumphal march, from victory to victory. The onward march of the Labor Movement is from defeat to defeat, each defeat marking a forking of the roads. One road, leading downwards, is struck by the disheartened and the unnerved, who re-form their ranks upon a lower plane, and, traveling ever lower, constitute the submerging and submerged portion of the Labor Movement. One instance of this process of decline is illustrated this week in the article on the downward plunge of the Postal Telegraph Employees’ Association. The other road,

leading upwards, is struck by the oak-ribbed and nervy. With them, every defeat is a signal for re-organization upon a higher plane, reached by the elimination of the errors that the defeat proved to be errors, and by the adoption of the fitter methods that the defeat likewise pointed to. And thus, marching from defeat to defeat, each defeat being a threshing ground where errors are winnowed away and truths are perfected, and ever re-forming its ranks upon a higher plane, the virile element of the Labor Movement marches onward. The onward march of the Labor Movement will record but ONE victory—the Waterloo of the Capitalist Class.

It is to be hoped that the International Union of Lithographic Workmen will furnish one of the numerous illustrations of the maxim of the sociologic philosopher to the effect that, while with the lower species Evolution is unaided by the intellect and is forced exclusively by outward conditions, with the higher species, the intellect takes Evolution by the hand and thereby saves the species the ordeal of undergoing the agonies of each separate link in the evolutionary process, or at least shortens the transit. It is to be hoped that without first having to undergo the experience of another painful defeat, like the one recently suffered, the Lithographers' Union will take the next step "along the line of Industrial Unionism," and organize itself industrially with the other industries of the land by joining the Industrial Workers of the World.

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

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