

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 5.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

WE ARE COMING, FATHER ABRAHAM!

By DANIEL DE LEON

UPON the heels of the inspiring conduct of the recent convention of the United Mine Workers in reading the riot act to John Mitchell, a number of events are crowding that are harbingers of the steady approach of a New Era in Unionism in the land, the Era of true, of bona fide, that is, of class-conscious Unionism.

We shall here record two events among the most significant:—

Cigarmakers Union 293, of Fort Smith, Ark., has offered the following amendment to the constitution of its International Union: “Any member of the Cigarmakers’ International Union of America who is or shall become a member of the Civic Federation shall forfeit his membership in the Cigarmakers’ International Union.”

The second event is the following passage in an editorial in the *United Mine Workers’ Journal* of May 25: “As at present constituted the American Federation of Labor affords very little protection to allied trades. The multiplicity of contracts expiring at different periods gives rise to the unfortunate situation at times when the activity of one trade is jeopardizing the existence of another. That is when one trade is on strike the other is at work, assisting the scabs to crush the struggling toilers.”

Who, after this, will venture to say that “boring from without” is fruitless? Who, after this, will venture to denounce the Socialist Labor Party’s tactics of boring, and banging, and slamming, and bombarding “from without,” and thereby furnishing aid and comfort to the well inclined within, and raising recruits for them to the end that they may supplement “from within” the boring that is done “from without”?

The Socialist Labor Party first sounded the blast against the Civic Federation, as it has since sounded the blast against the Militia of Christ—and never let up. The Socialist Labor Party first sounded the blast against the scabbism that is practised under the shield of Union cards, and under the pretext of contracts. First

among all, and never letting up, the S.L.P. bored from without by exposing the Gompers-Mitchell sacred (in the interest of the employer and of his labor-lieutenants) so-called “contracts,” and pointed out the treasonableness of the affiliation of these same labor-lieutenants of the capitalist class with the Civic Federation conspiracy against the intelligence of the proletariat.

It matters not that the precious president of the Cigarmakers’ Union ruled the Arkansas Union’s amendment out of order as “retroactive.” That matters not. The amendment is obviously directed against Gompers. Such amendments, together with such editorial passages as the one from the miners’ *Journal*, will increase in number, broaden in scope, and crystallize to that point of perfection when Unionism, emancipated from the slough of pure and simpledom, both economic and political, will be equal to its historic mission.

And that, with its unterrified persistence,—
 Boring “from without”
 Will have brought about.

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Uploaded May 2012

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