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EDITORIAL

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE “INTERNATIONAL LETTER.”

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READERS of *The People* know what the *International Letter* is—the one time *Letter*, that issued from the Washington headquarters of the A.F. of L. only, now broadened into a letter issued also from the headquarters of the International Secretariat at Berlin. At first intended to mislead the proletariat of America by the infiltration of false information embodying false principles, the *Letter* now aims at misleading the international proletariat, which includes the American, with the infiltration of false notions regarding America. Of this fact *The People* has furnished two illustrations since the recent starting of the *Letter*.

In view of the *International Letter's* broadened scope we desire to make a suggestion in connection with the Mulhall disclosures.

True enough Mulhall has been proved a windbag. Nevertheless, windbag though the man be, he has not been wholly refuted. Some of his disclosures stand, no attempt having been attempted to disprove them. Among the unrefuted disclosures is the bunch made by Mulhall in connection with the shoemakers' strike at Portsmouth, O.

In a nutshell, the undisputed facts connected with the Portsmouth affair are:

In the spring of 1909 George D. Selby, president of the Selby Shoe Company and other shoe manufacturers of Portsmouth felt driven to the wall by a stubborn strike of their 3,000 employees. The firms appealed for help to the National Association of Manufacturers. Mulhall's services were secured. He immediately started for Portsmouth. The strike in Portsmouth having been called by the Knights of Labor, Mulhall enlisted the services of the Business Agent, an A.F. of L. dignitary, of the Machinists' Union of Cleveland. Arrived in Portsmouth, Mulhall “saw” one Cooper,

the chief A.F. of L. officer in that locality, and, together with the said Cooper and the Business Agent afore mentioned, a flying wedge was organized, which, driven into the camp of the K. of L. strikers soon routed them.

Now, then, our suggestion is this:

The *International Letter* should hasten to head off this damaging story. It should hasten to embody an item like this:

“Solidarity of Labor. A strike of the K. of L. shoeworkers at Portsmouth was valiantly fought by the workers with the assistance of prominent A.F. of L. officers. Altho’ the K. of L. is a rival organization, the A.F. of L., being the highest exponent of Unionism, spent thousands of dollars to assist the K. of L. strikers, besides giving them all of its moral support, and also the benefit of its experience in winning strikes. Unfortunately the strike was lost but this was the fault of the K. of L. methods of organization. Nevertheless the valiant battle was a moral victory for the workers, the laurels of which victory the A.F. of L. places vicariously upon its own head by decorating with them the brow of Samuel Gompers, President of the A.F. of L.”

’Twill make pretty reading in the *International Letter*.

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