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EDITORIAL

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION NEEDED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE correspondence from Scranton, published in these columns, reveals a frame of mind among the anthracite coal miners that will materially affect the inside workings of the Hanna-Gompers "Industrial Peace" machinery. Our correspondent says that the immediate effect of the Hanna-Gompers combine upon these miners has been that they no longer need pay dues: the Civic Federation will settle all their disputes in the future.

Surely this turn of affairs was not contemplated by the Executive Committee of the Civic Federation. Yet unexpected as the turn is, it is natural.

The scheme was to continue and intensify the fleecing of the Working Class behind the mask of "Labor." What the capitalist class, all by itself, could not expect to do, at least not without much trouble, it calculated to do easily and smoothly with the aid of Gompers and other "Presidents." Combining with these, the seal of "Labor" could henceforth be put upon any iniquity of capital. But in the pursuit of this scheme, the working class was expected to furnish, not only "the dog for the experiment," but also the knife for the experimenting. Dues were to be wrung out of them for the support of their scabby "Presidents," and John Mitchell of the Miners, one of the members of the Civic Federation Executive Committee, set the pace by causing his salary to be raised at the recent Indianapolis convention. Suddenly, the miners stop paying dues.

These miners' process of reasoning is brutally logical. Dues are paid in the expectation of raising funds to fight strikes: strikes are no longer to be fought, they are to be settled, consequently, Hurrah for Hanna! Hurrah for the Civic Federation! We'll save our dues! This certainly does not fit in with the scheme: Either the Civic Federation Executive Committee will have to resort to some new pretext to squeeze dues out of the men, and, if it does, it will help the scales to drop from their eyes,

and enable the men to see that the dues are and were extorted for the benefit of the fakirs; or the Committee will have itself to disburse the full pay that the fakirs are to receive for their dirty work.

President Hanna will have to go into executive session with his Vice-President Gompers.

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

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