

EDITORIAL

## INEFFECTIVENESS OF HAYWOOD.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**T**HE members of the American Federation of Labor, an organization to which we [Socialist party] are supposed to be neutral, but which we accord whatever support the Socialist party gives, is comprised of two million members, some of them on paper, but we will give them credit for the full number, because the more they have the worse it is for that kind of organization. It would be safe to say that the members of the American Federation of Labor pay on an average into their treasuries, in dues, fines, assessments, contributions, donations, subscriptions and strike benefits, at least an average of \$2 per month for each member. This would mean \$4,000,000 a month, \$48,000,000 a year, \$480,000,000 in ten years. Now I would like to have you ask your trade union friends if the purchasing power of their wages has increased during the last ten years. Is it not a fact that the purchasing power of the wages of all the workers has declined in ten years? that is to say, that you can't buy as much bacon, as many baby's shoes, nor pay as much house rent, nor get as good a dress for the wife with the money that you get now as you could ten years ago? The purchasing power is the real wage, and if the purchasing power has declined it means that the wages of the members of the A.F. of L., have been reduced. And more than that, it means that they have paid \$480,000,000 for the reduction. Don't overlook that fact.”

Thus, with terse directness, did William D. Haywood address Mr. Morris Hillquit in the course of a debate that the two recently held.

The figures are incontrovertible; the argument is a “bull's-eye.” One should think the passage hit, not one, but both Mr. Hillquit's eyes; and closed them good and tight; and left him reeling, knocked out, and unable to respond to the time-keeper's call of “Time!” Yet none of that happened. When “Time!” was called upon Mr. Hillquit, up he bobbed, jauntily and serenely.

Could be no otherwise. The Haywood thrust was delivered, not from the granite bottom of the I.W.W. It was delivered from the marsh-quagmire bottom, if a marsh-quagmire can be called a “bottom,” of the I'm-a-Bummery, a rope-of-sand concern

that wholly rejects political action; that, as a consequence, lacks the honesty of its own convictions, and conceals what it means; that, as a further consequence, raises theft and crime to the dignity of a class-action; that, as a still further consequence, tolerates turpitude to the point of bursting it wide open; and that, as a final consequence, would do infinitely worse than even the A.F. of L. was shown to have done.

The best of blows is ineffective if the dealer of the blow stands not on solid ground. Standing on the yielding bottom of a marsh, the stronger the efforts of the blow-dealer, only all the deeper does he sink into mire.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)