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EDITORIAL

COUNTERFEITS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN a front page interview published in the *New York Globe* of last May 29, Mr. William D. Haywood of the Anarcho-I.W.W. and also, and legitimately enough, of the All-Things-To-All-Men Socialist party, having sung the praises of Direct Action, and inconsistently enough denounced the A.F. of L., was asked by the puzzled reporter whether he still was a Socialist who believed in political action. The answer was as follows, to wit, that is to say:

“Yes, but I want the Socialists to be consistent. They are at last where I’ve been trying to get them. In their national convention they decided to keep their organizers in their legitimate field and prevent their secret hostility to us. I believe the Socialist party organization offers the greatest possible means of educating the working classes. It is the great preacher of the crusade. And as fast as they wake the workers out of their lethargy the Industrial Workers will be on the job to organize them into one grand army to gather in the fruits of the preaching.”

Of course Mr. Haywood knew that he was romancing. Probably the reporter knew as much also.

The S.P. stands in the way of a healthy economic organization of the working class. The S.P. is dominated by the A.F. of L.—Civic Federation, Militia of Christ, and all. That’s well known. While, true enough, the A.F. of L. partakes of all the features that render Mr. Haywood’s so-called I.W.W. sympathetic to the gentleman, as illustrated by the McNamaras, the S.P. connections are mainly A.F. of L. While, as James Wilson of the Anarcho-I.W.W. itself established, the S.P. press and individuals may occasionally receive some sops from the Anarch-I.W.W., the S.P. is not going to fight with the big chunks of bread and butter that it derives from the A.F. of L. It is a case of pure romancing to say that the S.P. will furnish a basis of operation for a “rival union” to the A.F. of L.

Were this all that there is about the interview it might be dismissed with a broad grin. But there is that in the interview that deservedly arrests attention.

What principles are these:—

“I believe the Socialist party organization offers the greatest possible means of education the working classes”; and “It is the great preacher of the crusade”; and “As fast as they [the S.P.] awake the workers out of their lethargy the industrial Workers [the Haywood “I.W.W.”] will be on the job to organize them into one grand army to gather in the fruits of the preaching”;—what, we repeat, are these principles?

The principles embodied in that language are cast in the exact mold of the Socialist Labor Party’s preachments—“the political party alone can preach the revolution”; “it is for the political party to carry on the education, and awake the workers to their revolutionary mission”; “only under the shield of a political party of revolution can the Industrial Union recruit its forces for the fulfilment of the revolutionary act.” All this is S.L.P. principles and teachings; what is more, all this was sneered at and denied by Mr. Haywood’s so-called “I.W.W.,” and the holders thereof were vilified as “politicians,” while “Direct Action only” was held up against S.L.P. principles.

Has a new soul entered the hulk of Mr. Haywood? No—at least not unless a counterfeit can be supposed capable of holding the soul of the genuine.

It is in this respect that Mr. Haywood’s present S.L.P. posture, struck in the pure and simple politician S.P., deserves attention. The counterfeit is a homage that Vice feels constrained to render to Virtue, Guilt to Innocence, Savagery to Civilization—Anarchy to Socialism.

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