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EDITORIAL

TRUTH AND FICTION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT may be an accident that the convention, so-called, of the American Federation of Labor and the German Reichstag are both sitting at the same time. That, probably, is pure accident. But the accident thereof is certainly felicitous. The two bodies clarify one another in the sense that Truth clarifies Fiction.

At Scranton, Pa., are gathered the leading lights of Pure and Simple Unionism. In their reports to the convention these gentlemen discant upon "the enormous benefits bestowed by the Union upon its members"; they throw out their chests every time they utter the word "American Labor," and they throw in their chests every time they utter the word "European Labor," a term which they fling about as synonymous with "Pauper Labor." The "improved conditions," the "higher wages," the "longer lives" that American Labor is enjoying as the fruit of Unionism constitute the refrain of all their songs.

In the Reichstag a debate is going on on the tariff. A document there produced created great sensation. It set forth in neat figures the findings of the manager of an American tool company's works in Berlin, who made an investigation into the relative productivity of American and German labor, and of the wages paid. The investigator found that **THE AMERICAN WORKINGMAN, MAKING AN EXACT ALLOWANCE FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN WAGES, TURNS OUT 25 PER CENT. MORE PRODUCT FOR THE SAME UNIT OF WAGES.** The report proceeds to state:

"Man for man, the German produces two-fifths of what an American does. A shoe factory at Breslau, using American machinery, secured better results by importing eight American workmen and paying them by the piece, to stimulate the German workmen, who then came within 10 per cent. of the Americans' work."

Rarely are Fiction and Truth brought face to face, and as promptly as the A.F. of L. Fiction is brought face to face with the Truth in the matter of Labor. Rarely is the bluster of the American labor fakir as promptly called down as in this instance. And never before has Truth in such timely way knocked down and exposed the deep depravity of the Organized Scabbery that trots about as the labor leaders of the land.

In the exposure the tables are absolutely turned upon American Labor. It is shown to be THE pauper labor of modern days. It stands exposed as the pace-setter to drag down foreign Labor, instead of foreign Labor being the pace-setter, as usually supposed, to drag down American Labor. And this disgraceful position American Labor occupies to-day thanks to the leadership of the scamp crew now assembled in convention at Scranton.

What wonder that Civic Federations fraternize with that gentry? What wonder that Democrats and Republicans furnish them with political jobs? What wonder that the capitalist press whoops it up for them? What wonder that the Kangaroo Social Democracy licks their boots?

'Tis all no wonder.

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