

EDITORIAL

NO POLITICS IN THE UNION!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THAT is an interesting bit of information that the plow of events is throwing up—the information that, in 1908, when William Jennings Bryan was throwing his shadow before the approaching Democratic National Convention as the “logical” nominee for President, he asked John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers’ Union, to be his associate as the nominee for Vice-President. The story goes on to say that John Mitchell was willing, but declined to give a definite answer until he had consulted with Mr. Roosevelt, the then Republican incumbent at the White House. President Roosevelt objected; whereupon John Mitchell declined the offer made to him by Bryan.

Further the story sayeth not; nor, is it necessary.

Here we see John Mitchell, a Democrat, consulting with the Republican President as to whether or not to accept the nomination for Vice-President on the Democratic ticket.

Here, furthermore, we see John Mitchell, a personality of no personal note whatever, except the note derived from his official connection with a pure and simple craft union, being singled out for a leading nomination by a political party of capital.

Here, still furthermore, we have John Mitchell, a leading figure in a craft union, which has for its motto: “No Politics in the Union!” give a willing ear to an offer to play decoy-duck on the ticket of a political party, and a party of capital at that.

Here, finally, we see that John Mitchell declined the offer at the behest of the head man of another political party of capital.

Of course, everybody who knows anything, knows that unionism cannot be outside of politics any more than a human being can be outside of air. Of course, every-

body who knows anything, knows that when any social organization—be it railroads, factories, mines or what not, unions included—makes a parade of “No Politics!” the parade is an unerring symptom of corrupt political practices. All this notwithstanding, the information that the plow of events has thrown up concerning No-politics-in-the-union and Militia-of-Christ John Mitchell is peculiarly choice, being a peculiarly complete specimen.

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