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EDITORIAL

DEBS' GREAT HIT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

OF the many hits, made by Eugene V. Debs at last Sunday's great Industrial Workers of the World meeting at the Grand Central Palace, none hit the nail more squarely on the head than the statement: "It would be better for Labor if there was no organization such as the present craft organizations; for were there not, they would strike spontaneously when they had a grievance; as it is now, they are prevented from doing so by their craft agreements, their 'sacred contracts.'" At the making of this statement and the applause that followed it, he who had ears could hear the skull of the A.F. of L. and its kindred pure and simple crafts crack and splinter. Nor could he who had eyes fail to see by the grimaces of the score or so of beneficiaries of the A.F. of L. present that the hit went home.

What else but the fetters of craft Unionism held the Working Class of the land back from spontaneously rising to the aid of the anthracite strikers in 1902?

What else but the fetters of craft Unionism held the kindred trades engaged on the subway and the "L" roads from spontaneously rising in support of the striking conductors and motormen?

What else but the fetters of craft Unionism held the kindred trades in the packing houses and during the more recent teamsters' strike in Chicago from spontaneously rising to second the efforts of their battling brothers?

From one end of the country to the other the experience is of almost daily occurrence—the instinct of Labor solidarity is deadened, the impulse for Labor solidarity is hamstrung, the path of Labor's emancipation is barred by the pure and simple craft Unions. Without them the flame of the Revolution would flare up and would soon find its proper channel, with them the snuffer is put upon the flame.

Experience is ample. The day for discussion is ended. Whatever honesty of

purpose once might have existed in the opposite view, must by this time have been fully enlightened. The line is drawn. On one side stand those who will unite the Working Class, and on the other are herded those whose personal-petty interests and malevolence would keep the Working Class divided. The former are gathered under the banner of the I.W.W., the latter's rallying point is the pirate black flag of the Civic Federation, emblazoned with the skull and cross-bones of Gompers-Mitchell-Stonism.

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