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EDITORIAL

## HE DID “BORE FROM WITHIN.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE address, published elsewhere in this issue under the title “Third Explosion,” and delivered by Robert Randell, a delegate from Wyoming to the late Indianapolis convention of John Mitchell’s satrapy, called the “United Mine Workers’ Union,” is in more ways than one a classic document of historic importance. The address, as published, is taken from a copy of the typewritten manuscript which Randell read and furnished to this office by Randell himself. It is authentic of what he said. We shall here touch only upon two of the many great lessons that the address teaches.

“Attack principles, not men!” is the plausible cry set up by the criminal interests who rule the land, together with their underlings, and which is ever echoed by the unthinking. The reasons why the Western coal miners were entrapped into the crushing and disgraceful defeat that they suffered, are graphically outlined by Randell. They had “faith in John Mitchell,” they relied upon it that “the public would, as in the anthracite strike, force the coal companies to make terms with the union.” How came these miners to “have faith{”} in the broken reed of a John Mitchell? Whence did they derive the false idea that the anthracite coal barons were “forced to make terms with the union?” The one and the other fatal error came from the renown that the capitalist class had an interest in imparting to John Mitchell. It meant dollars and cents to them. It not only was a shield to them at the time of the anthracite strike, but it also was an earnest of future comforts. The glorification of John Mitchell at a time when he played the bituminous miners against their anthracite brothers, gave promise of a similar playing of one organization of labor against another at some later day. And that is just what happened. Praised by the capitalists, his praises echoed by the unthinking, vote-fishing so-called Socialist party, these praises carried to Europe by

them and causing the European Socialist press to speak lovingly of "Comrade Mitchell"—all this made noise enough to deceive the Western miners, and to dump them where Randell now shows that they are dumped. A name at times becomes a symbol. It condenses principles. When these are dastard, the name must be attacked. Not to attack it is to afford the dastard principles a chance. "Personalities," accordingly, are among the primest of educational agencies. Had John Mitchell been thoroughly attacked and his conduct exposed, as the Socialist Labor Party alone did from the start, the Western miners could have been saved. But it is not too late.

This brings us to the second lesson taught by Randell's address. Compare the blows administered by Randell from the shoulder in the convention to the spineless twaddle of the "boring from within" brigade. Randell did bore. He bored in the only manner that stands the test. His boring threw the flash-light on Gompers or capitalist unionism, together with the satraps whom the capitalist class keeps up in these satrapies. He drew from them the proof that health from within is as much out of the question as music is from within a coyote.

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

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