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EDITORIAL

GIVING THE SNAP AWAY.

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THE *Butte Miner*, the property of the multi-millionaire United States Senator from Montana, Wm. A. Clark, is wroth at the action of the convention of the Western Federation of Miners, now in session in Denver. It calls the action of the convention the fastening of the Union to politics, and that politics Socialism. Now, what did the convention do?

Miners' Union No. 1 of Butte sent to the convention ten delegates to which it is entitled. Of these delegates the convention seated eight without further ado, and referred the credentials of the other two to a special committee, the credentials of these two being contested by two other delegates. Upon investigation the convention decided to seat the two contestants, on the ground that the other two had not been elected. That was all. This notwithstanding, the Republican party organ of the Republican Senator Clark not only declares the act to be a pronouncement for Socialist politics, but is incautious enough to assert that the two would-be but rejected applicants for seats in the convention had been UNSEATED. This assertion is an unguarded and self-accusing act. It betrays the fact that the Republican capitalist politician Clark claims to have positive, private and inside knowledge concerning a thing that happened behind the closed doors of a Union,—positive, private and inside knowledge concerning a matter, which, according to the very principle that the Senator pretends to stand upon (the absence of all politics in the Union), he has no business to have any inside knowledge on. The assertion lays bare underground manoeuvres on the part of the Senator. It points quite clearly to the Republican politician Clark's participation, somehow, in the Union's election for delegates!

Unerring is the instinct of the capitalist. Whenever an organization of Labor refuses to be run by capitalist interests, the capitalist forthwith announces the act

as Socialist. He is right, nor is he wrong when he declares the act to bear a political complexion. An organization of Labor may not be quite aware of just what it is doing when it follows its own instinct and runs itself, without capitalist dictation; the capitalist, however, is forthwith fully aware of what the act portends. He knows that what is not capitalist is against capitalism; he knows that what is against capitalism is Socialism, if not ripened Socialism at least potential Socialism; he knows that capitalism, being inseparable from politics, whatever opposes capitalism must eventually, if not sooner, also assume the political aspect; in short, he knows that if a Labor organization is not animated by capitalist thought and run by capitalist politics there is but one other thought—Socialist thought—but one other politics—Socialist politics—to fill the vacuum. Hence the froth at the mouth of Senator Clark's paper; hence the paper's rage at the "Socialistic" conduct of the Denver Convention; hence the paper's trepidation lest the Union lose its "standing," and lest "the interests of the entire community" suffer by so "ill-advised a policy."

Praise is due to Senator Clark for having his capitalist scent so keen; but condemnation is due to the Senator's judgment for being so dull as to allow his feelings to run away with him in such a manner as to give the snap away. But, then, Senator Clark has an established reputation, rendered all the more conspicuous by the conspicuous political eminence that he purchased, for being as stupid as a ground-hog.

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