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EDITORIAL

SMOKED OUT OF ITS HOLE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE tri-State Labor demonstration arranged to take place in New Castle, Pa., on "Labor Day" under the auspices of the Industrial Workers of the World, bids fair to be more than a flash in the pan. It bids fair to prove an unerring shot, a shot that hits the vitals of the combined powers that ride to-day upon the back of the Working Class. It bids, accordingly, fair to go far towards clarifying the vision of the wage slave masses of the land by enabling them to detect the nature of the combine that oppresses them.



BENJAMIN HANFORD
(1861-1910)

One of the "Socialist" Party luminaries who supported A.F. of L. Gomerism and opposed the revolutionary industrial unionism of the original I.W.W.

left to the approaching New Castle monster Labor demonstration to smoke the scrawny coyote of the truth in the case out of the hole in which it has kept itself more or less concealed.

The New Castle *City News* of the 9th instant has the following article with

In the struggle, at present going on in the land, for organizing and drilling the Working Class, a certain cry has gone up intended and well calculated to confuse the masses. The cry is that the I.W.W. is a Union-wrecking scheme concocted in the interests of the capitalist class. That cry has gone up from the camp of craft Unionism. The proof of the pudding ever lies in the eating. If the I.W.W. is a "Union-wrecking scheme in the interest of the capitalist class," then the spectacle should be seen of fraternal relations between the I.W.W. and the capitalist press, and, at the same time, the reverse of fraternal relations between that same capitalist press and craft or A.F. of L. Unionism. The "eating of the pudding" has suggested the opposite tale from the time the I.W.W. was launched. It was, however,

flaming headlines:

HANFORD TO BE AT YOUNGSTOWN.

Labor-Day Committee Made Master Stroke in Securing Him as an Attraction.

Ben Hanford, one of the greatest Socialistic leaders in the country, has been engaged to speak at Youngstown Labor day, and will speak from the same platform as Samuel Gompers and other noted labor leaders. In securing Hanford for that place the committee having the Youngstown celebration in charge has aimed a bodyblow at the celebration to be held here by the I.W.W. Mr. Hanford is one of the greatest men in the Socialist party and ran for vice president of the United States on the same ticket with Eugene V. Debs, the great Socialist.

Ben Hanford is one of the most noted workers in the Socialist party. In a recent issue of the *Labor Advocate* of Youngstown, he went after some of the leaders in the I.W.W. and roasted them unmercifully. Even J.W. Slayton of this city, did not escape notice and he was roasted to a nice dark brown.

The coyote is out of its hole—wild, sputtering, running for life.

The New Castle *City News* is a capitalist paper that never has neglected an opportunity to deride the efforts of the wage slave for emancipation, or to applaud the hitherto successful efforts of the capitalist to club, bayonet and shoot the wage slave into subjection. The New Castle tri-State Labor demonstration was successfully arranged in the teeth of the machinations of the craft Union leaders. According to craft Union claims, the I.W.W. is a Union-wrecking scheme in the interest of the capitalist. If this were so, then the least that such a blood-thirsty capitalist paper as the New Castle *City News* would have done would have been to lie low, and chuckle quietly. It is otherwise. "You hit my dog you hit me." The shot fired at craft Unionism, by the arrangement of the New Castle Labor demonstration, hit the dog so well that his master also is yelling. Nor is it the yell of the master only that denotes the relationship between master and dog in this case. The readiness of the dog to run under the shelter of the master's shed tells the story over again.

Like master like man, like man like master. A Hanford, whose typographical Union in this city has just refused to stand by the demands of the stereotypers,

pressmen, engineers and firemen in the “New York Tribune” building, and by thus leaving them in the lurch left them at the mercy of the capitalist; a Hanford, whose voice never is raised in his Union against the habitual scabbery that it practices upon other, and even closely kindred trades, as has happened again and yet again in this and other cities; a Hanford, whose revolutionariness consists in revolutionary wild TALK, but never in revolutionary ORGANIZATION, on the contrary always against it; a Hanford, in short, who correctly supplements his craft Unionism with pure and simple political Socialism;—such a specimen, of course, deserves the interested, however absurd, praises showered upon him by such a paper as the New Castle *City News*; and vice versa the New Castle *City News* is the natural haven for such a specimen to take shelter in.

Fain, we know full well, would the capitalist class and Gompers-Belmont Unionism conceal the intimacy of their relations. The compulsion they are put under by the I.W.W. to betray themselves is a trusty gauge of I.W.W. excellence. The Youngstown “bodyblow,” that the *City News* talks so jubilantly about, will prove no more a bodyblow than the bark of a dog at the moon. On the contrary, if the shadow cast ahead of itself by the New Castle demonstration can produce such demoralization in the camp of the capitalists and of their bulwark of craft Unionism, as is evidenced by the New Castle *City News*’s article, it may confidently be expected that the demonstration itself will prove a long step towards putting both out of business.

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

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