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EDITORIAL

## A NOBLE THOUGHT AND TRUE WITHAL.

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**F**ROM the gloomy cell, where he is held in violation of law and of conscience, Wm. D. Haywood has found the opportunity to send a word of cheer to the Working Class without. The first words that have reached the public from his lips are: "There are plenty of Moyers and Haywoods." These are noble words, they express a noble thought, and they are true withal.

That which marks the new era, inaugurated by the I.W.W., and distinguishes it sharply from what may be termed the Age of the A.F. of L. in the Labor Movement of America, is the circumstance that its structure generates men, while the structure of the A.F. of L. destroys men. For the building of men, very much the same as for the establishment of discipline in an organization, the first prerequisite is soundness of principle. The Unity Conference of New Jersey put it well when it went on record with the declaration: "In a party of wobbling principles the membership must wobble". Principles that are at fisticuffs with facts can not build the solid foundation needed for a firm footing by the membership. Such a foundation yields and shifts like quagmires. The necessity of frequent readaptation to the shifted groundwork, produces the eel-man, not the MAN. Thus it was and is with the A.F. of L. Its principle of "reciprocal interests" between the Workingman and the Capitalist was and is at fisticuffs with the fact that the Capitalist lives only upon the plunder of the Workingman, and can live only so long as the Workingman can be plundered. Such a principle can not possibly build up men; as a consequence, democracy is out of question in the organization that is reared by such a false plumb-line. Eels can be held together only by the string by which they are strung together through the gills: the eel-men, generated by falsely constructed organizations, can be held together only by despotic rule. Effect ever reacts back upon its cause and intensifies the same. The despotic rule—like the string on which

eels are strung together—that holds together in terrorism the organizations of eel-men, render these all the more eelish. Thus the system is found in the A.F. of L., craft Unionism in general, of the officers running the organization with a rod of scorpions. Such organizations can not generate men. If a leader should really arise of sterling qualities, his decapitation, literal or figurative, decapitates the whole organization.

Not so with the I.W.W. Planted on the rock-bed of the principle that the interests of the Working Class are irreconcilable with the interests of the Capitalist Class, the I.W.W. fits the surrounding facts. Its membership need not wobble. The training they there receive is the athlete's training, for athletes' work. Not as eels, strung together by the string of despotic rule, but as men, bound together by an indissoluble band which experience only helps to strengthen, democratic methods can flourish in their midst; and, effect again reacting back upon its cause, the democratic organization promotes the flourishing of men.

All this is implied in Haywood's noble words, and true withal. Even if, due to the present still numerical weakness of the I.W.W. and its consequent inability to reach and enlighten the masses, such a calamity to the country should actually happen as the success of the Mine Owners' Ass'n's. and Standard Oil's heinous plot; even if the methods, officially recorded by Gov. Altgeld as having been practiced in Chicago in 1887, should once more be actually crowned with judicial murder; or even if the special methods of the Western capitalists—the methods of drugging prisoners to death or into imbecility—should actually prevail;—even then, in the language of Haywood, "There are plenty of Moyers and Haywoods". These will speedily fill the gap made by the capitalist assassin; and, encouraged by the example of their noble precursors, emulate them—to victory.

I.W.W., no more than the S.L.P., can be decapitated by decapitating any one or all of its officers. It is an organization of MEN, not of eels; in its camp the knell of Capitalism has sounded.

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