

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## THEY ARE RIGHT AND LEFT HAND.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**O**ur news and correspondence columns, always rich in information that throws a searchlight into the dark corners of the Labor Fakir, have recently been particularly rich in such information. It is our purpose now to point out the high-water mark so far reached in the nefarious practices of these gentry. The recent communication from Morrisvale, Pa., answers the purpose.

That the “Union Label,” invented to protect the operatives, has, for a consideration, been turned by the Labor Fakirs into a shield for the employer, has been more than once proven in these columns: that’s old; that strikes and boycotts, resorted to by the rank and file to resist encroachments from the exploiter, have, for a consideration, been turned by the Labor Fakirs into weapons to strengthen the exploiter’s arm, has been again and again shown: that, too, is old; that the “organizing of Labor,” originally a device to fight the capitalist, has, for a consideration, been perverted by the Labor Fakir into a buffer against the working class, has also been amply exposed: also that is old;—in short, illustrations innumerable have been marshalled on the stage demonstrating the fact that the officers of “pure and simple” Trade Unionism, usually known as Labor Fakirs, are the Labor Lieutenants of the Capitalist Class, charged with doing in the camp of Labor the dirty work that the capitalist himself could not do. The communication from Morrisvale, however, tells of a brand new use, a brand new line, that these gentry have been put to.

A Union gathers funds for a variety of purposes, none of them to the liking of the employer. A Union Treasury is, accordingly, a sore in the employer’s eyes. Many a scheme has been devised to weaken such Treasuries, all more or less clumsy. The Morrisvale scheme has the merit of neatness, directness, despatch and completeness: Through its Labor Lieutenant, the Coal Company in question ascertained the exact amount in the Treasury of its miners’ Union—\$700; the company then trumped up a charge against the check-weighman, claiming he had

robbed the company out of \$900, and dismissed him; while the dismissed member of the Union was making his experience of how difficult and expensive it would be to institute proceedings in Court against the company, he is approached in friendly and highly sympathetic vein by the company's superintendent, who draws in still deeper and darker colors the difficulties and expenses attending any plan to "buck against the company," and, out of the fullness of his dearly loving heart, offers the dismissed Union man to take \$200 out of his own pocket and "make it all right again," provided the man's Union will raise the rest of the sum (\$700, exactly the amount in the Union's Treasury); thereupon, the Labor Lieutenant of the company brings the matter up in the Union, plays upon the sympathies of the fellow craftsmen of the victim, and—gets a motion through that empties the treasury!

The Capitalist is the right hand, the Labor Fakir is the left hand of the Beast of Capital that to-day is "holding up" and plundering the Working Class. That Beast can not be fought if either of his hands is left free. The bona fide fight upon the Beast must be a fight to the knife against his Right and Left hand simultaneously.

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