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EDITORIAL

TWO OF A KIND.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THERE are those who wonder, when they see the names of such “representatives of labor” as the ex-convict for dynamiting, Heinrich Weissmann, and more of that ilk, along side of the capitalist prigs who gather regularly every year to “down Tammany.” “How come these College men,” one often hears it asked in surprise, to “fraternize with such ignorant people?” Those who ask the question evidently don’t know that ignorance is one of the very points of contact between the Goo Goo “College men” and the Labor Fakirs. Perhaps last Wednesday’s report of the “City Clubs” may help to illustrate the point.

The Goo Goo College man maintains that municipal government is something separate and apart from State and National politics, so apart that municipal campaigns should be conducted on “non-partisan” lines. The Labor Fakir maintains that the Trade Union is something separate and apart from politics, so apart that Trade Unions should be conducted along non-partisan political lines.

The identity of the species of the ignorance of the two is striking. There is not a move municipal that is not or can not be affected by a wire political pulled from the State or National political nerve-centers; nor is there a principle, aim or object Trade-Unional that cannot be, and regularly has been, staved in by the head of a hammer, whose handle is held in political fists. The food that is eaten, the water that is drunk, the very air that is breathed in, municipally, depend upon and are affected by State and National political regulations; and likewise, and upon identical lines, the very scale of wages, hours of work and other Union regulations, together with the fate that overtakes these, are direct reflexes of a social system, that is to say, of institutions who, feet and head, heart and soul, are political. To ignore these facts should be stupidity enough to satisfy the most exacting; and so it is; and also should the fact of the identical stupidity being found at the cornerstone of the conduct of both the Labor Fakir and the Goo-Goo be ample to explain the phenomenon, which puzzles superficial observers, when they see the “College man” and the “Labor Fakir” arm in arm in Goo-Goo movements. Nevertheless, while the

circumstance is an ample explanation, there is a second circumstance that supplements the first.

The point of contact between Fakir and Goo-Gooist is not simply ignorance. There is a second point of contact between them, to wit, more ignorance, that pronounced manifestation of ignorance that consists in believing that one may be guilty of the grossest contradiction and yet have his conduct pass unperceived. Last Wed'day, the "City Clubs," whose motto is "non-partisanship," the "City is our home, let us give to it all our thought," etc., etc., met and gave its report, and what did that report mainly consist in? Surely, if it touched State politics at all, it must have been to give an account of its efforts to educate the public up to the Goo-Goo theory, and wean it away from the bad habit of mixing politics into everything. Was that it? Bless your heart, no! The bulk of the report is taken up with an analysis of the work done—hold your sides—**DONE AT ALBANY!** Ditto, ditto, with the Labor Fakir. His reports to conventions of pure and simple Unions should surely be models of non-politicism. Are they? No! They bristle with the activity he has been constrained to display—where? In the shop? No, bless your soul again. His reports tell of nerve-wearing work done—again hold your sides—**DONE IN THE LOBBIES OF LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS!**

Why, of course, the Goo-Goo and the Labor Fakir have a point in common that, like the strawberry mark, identifies the one to the other as brothers, natural allies in Goo-Goo gatherings, to wit, **IGNORANCE** seasoned with the sauce of **CYNICAL IGNORANCE**, otherwise named in political cook-books "**CORRUPTION.**"

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

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