

EDITORIAL

AN INNOCENT ALTRURIAN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MR. ALEXANDER ULAR, the foreign correspondent in America for *Le Petit Journal of Paris*, describes his emotions at the sight that caught his eyes recently when the Civic Federation gave its dinner. Mr. Ular says:

“To see Capital and Labor at a great banquet peacefully discussing social questions was most amazing to me, because of my knowledge that discussions in France between the two classes are always unfriendly.

“Above all, I was amazed to see well-known labor leaders on good terms with great capitalists. I could hardly credit the spectacle of John Mitchell, who is considered by his French friends just as revolutionary as our labor leaders, sitting between Mr. Charles A. Moore, the manufacturer, and Mr. Percy A. Rockefeller, the capitalist, and later between Miss Morgan and Mrs. Harriman.

“If a French labor leader were to do this, French workingmen would at once believe that he was playing them false, and he would lose influence with them. Here, on the contrary, it seems that laborers want their leaders to maintain friendly relations with capital. It astonished me to see that the labor men considered their interest identical with those of capital.

“A toast like the one to which John Mitchell responded would be impossible in France, or at least the sentiments would be regarded as an indication that Mitchell was playing into the hands of capitalists.

“He said that he had always worked for peace between capital and labor, that he was proud of it, and that the prosperity of the working classes was intimately connected with the maintenance of peace between the two classes.

“French labor men will accept peace only when capital is utterly subdued.

“Mr. Samuel Prince, the labor leader, would lose prestige with working men in France were he to eat at a banquet at which well-known capitalists like August Belmont and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., were guests.

“I can also imagine what would happen to a French labor leader were he to sit at a table with John E. Parsons, as did Timothy Healy.

“It was indeed a remarkable thing, to my mind, that Samuel Gompers

should sit beside Andrew Carnegie and James Speyer, two of your best known capitalists.”

Mr. Ular is an innocent traveler from Altruria. The gentleman should read the first of the *Two Pages From Roman History*. He will then be enlightened upon the close parallel there is between the traitorous Plebs leaders of Rome and the Labor Leaders of American craft Unions; he will then perceive the close parallel there is between the Roman patricians and the American capitalists; and between the Civic Federation and the Roman Temple of Concord, which a Roman wag justly inscribed “Madness and Discord rear the fane of Concord”; finally Mr. Ular would wake up to the fact that the so-called Socialist party, a political reflex of the Mitchell-Gompers brotherhood-game, is, through its viciously false reports to Europe, responsible for the false notions that Mr. Ular brought along from Europe and that suffered such a rude shock when confronted with the facts.

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

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