

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 217.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

MITCHELL'S "CRUEL INJUSTICE."

By DANIEL DE LEON

FACT No. 1—What the Civic Federation is everybody knows. The thing has been under the limelight these eight years or more. According to one's particular bent, the consequences of the Civic Federation may be approved of, or condemned. As to what those consequences are there can be no doubt. The Civic Federation aims at "harmonious relations" between Labor and Capital. The Socialist and clear-sighted workingman wants none of that: he knows what Capital is and what Labor is under capitalism: knowing this he knows that harmony between the lion of Capital and the lamb of Labor means the latter finding its place inside of the former's stomach. Equally clear is the capitalist upon the subject; hence, his approval of the Civic Federation. None of these principles and facts are open to serious discussion.

Fact No. 2—Now, then, Mr. John Mitchell of the A.F. of L. miners, claiming to be a worker with the interests of Labor at heart, is a conspicuous figure in that same Civic Federation, where he enjoys a lucrative post. One of two things—either Mr. Mitchell is a muddlehead, means well by Labor, yet joins its foes; or he is a double-dealer, knows just what the Civic Federation is and joined it as a Labor-lieutenant of the Capitalist Class. There is no other alternative.

Fact No. 3—In view of all this the miners' convention, now in session at Columbus, carried by the big majority of 1,213 votes against 967 a resolution whereby Mr. Mitchell is substantially told he can not serve God and Mammon—if he wishes to retain his place in the Union he must sever his connections with the Civic Federation: if he declines to drop the Civic Federation then he will be dropped from the Union.

And now comes Fact No. 4—Mr. Mitchell pronounces the resolution a "cruel injustice"; Mr. Mitchell calls the resolution a "cruel injustice" because, he holds, "an

investigation should have been made by the convention before passing judgment averse to the National Civic Federation.”

While the above sequence of four facts should be quite enough of a commentary upon Mr. Mitchell's sense of justice, there is a Fact No. 5 that illumines all the four and clinches them.

When Ferrer having been assassinated by a feudal clerical conspiracy in distant Spain, and the conscience of Labor in general protesting against the deed, the Brooklyn central organization of Labor joined their voices to that of the enlightened world, Mr. Mitchell, this same Mitchell who now would have a thoroughly well known thing as the Civic Federation to be investigated before passing adverse judgment upon it,—that identical Mitchell took it upon himself, without the authorization of the workers, to address to a gathering of the Roman Catholic political machine an apology for the resolutions passed in favor of Ferrer, and based his apology upon the allegation that the labor organization in question was uninformed upon the actual facts. In other words, the “just” gentleman who, without investigating, presumed to pass adverse judgment upon the world's nobleman Ferrer and thus justify his killing,—that same “just” gentleman now whines “cruel injustice” at the miners for having passed adverse judgment upon the Civic Federation, a capitalist conspiracy against Labor that has for eight years been on trial and is known by all, inside and outside.

The “cruel injustice” that Mr. Mitchell charges the miners with is the kind of thing that the Mitchells will hear a good deal more about before they will have heard the last of it. The present is only a slight sample in advance.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded January 2012

slpns@slp.org