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EDITORIAL

SYNOPSIS AND OBSERVATIONS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

LAST November 30th's *Weekly News Letter* of the American Federation of Labor contains a front page three column-wide synopsis of, and observations upon, a certain scene that occurred during the course of the recent Rochester convention.

Synopsis, together with observations, presents a picture for the presenting of which the getter-up of the *Weekly News Letter* deserves hearty thanks.

The synopsis is of the scene that took place while the debate was in progress on a motion to establish a National Labor Party. A delegate having raised the point of order that the amendment was in violation of Section 8, Article 3, of the A.F. of L. constitution, the chairman held the point of order well taken, backing up his ruling by reading the Article referred to which provides: "Party politics, whether they be Democratic, Republican, Socialistic, Populistic, Prohibition, or any other, shall have no place in the conventions of the American Federation of Labor." And the ruling prevailed.

The observations occur in the last paragraph, a passage of which reads: "The American Federation of Labor has steadfastly refused to be the tail of any political kite, reserving for itself the right to champion or oppose any political party or individual in accordance with its or his record."

What master in the art of sketching, drawing, or painting could match this picture!

A lump of contradictions is the A.F. of L.:—

It preaches "brotherhood" and "reciprocal relations" between Working Class and Capitalist Class, and at the same time a bushel of its agents are confessing, or being convicted of, the brotherly and reciprocal act of dynamiting Brother Capitalist.

It preaches the solidarity of Labor, and simultaneously it organizes itself in

such fashion, and by the breath of such principles, as to rupture Labor into the “organized” and those doomed to be “unorganized”; while, within the “organized,” so-called, it foments, nurses and condones mutual scabbing.

It loudly declares the “Rights of Labor,” and in the same breath it proclaims the “Rights of Capital,” as if the plunderer, having the right to plunder, there is anything left to the plundered but the duty to submit.

And now we see it boastfully shut off “party politics,” and yet, with equal boastfulness, in one and the same article, reserves to itself the right “to champion or oppose any political party.”

The synopsis and observations actually sum up the physiognomy of the A.F. of L., its anatomy, its physiology, its psychology; and set forth the thing as the veriest Impossibility—impossible for aught but, to use the nautical term, to keep the Labor Movement “in irons.”

Who would not give thanks to the masterly artist who drew the picture, and, drawing, warned against the original?

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org