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EDITORIAL

THE GREAT BATTLE IN DENVER.

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THE latest correspondence, dated June 26th, from the reporter for *The People* at the Denver convention of the Western Federation of Miners, justifies the expectations that were entertained in advance of the gathering; it also confirms the expectations which *The People's* correspondent suggested from the start of the meeting of the convention; the correspondence finally foreshadows accurately the outcome of the great battle in the Labor Movement that the convention is the scene of.

As to the expectations entertained in advance of the convention and confirmed by the initial reports—that the convention would be in the nature of “unmasking secret batteries,” or of “smoking out coons” from their burrows, and that, in that way, the convention would be a generous contributor to the volume of facts from which the revolutionary, because sound, Labor Movement draws its theories—those expectations are verified beyond the most sanguine expectations.

One of the principles upon which the sound Labor Movement is planted is that some form of economic organization is the breath in the nostrils of all political organization claiming to be of and for Labor; furthermore, that, acting and reacting upon each other, the economic organization echoes back the tenets and methods of the political organization which is the reflex of the economic. A.F. of L. craft Unionism is the reflector of the Socialist Party; the S.P., accordingly, does and cannot choose but echo back A.F. of L. craft union views as well as methods; acting and reacting upon each other, the spokesmen of craft Unionism re-echo the S.P., and the spokesmen of the S.P. re-echo craft Unionism. This intimacy, in fact, identity of essence between the reflector and the reflectee, both the craft unionist

and the S.P.-ist have sought to conceal. The attempt is impossible of execution. At the Denver convention the “masked batteries” were unmasked by the cannonade of the St. Johns and the Ryans, the “coons” were “smoked out of their burrows” by the fire of the Heslewoods and the Rawlinses. Kirwan and Petriella, both naturally enough bitter S.P. partisans, both being dyed-in-the-wool craft unionists, were, as *The People's* reporter narrates, brazen enough to repeat the thoroughly exposed slanders started against the S.T. & L.A. and echoed by the S.P. Brazenness is not courage: brazenness is desperation. At the I.W.W. convention Haywood honored himself by doing the S.T. & L.A. delegation the justice of saying: “If all the delegations to this convention had been as clear and as well disciplined [almost superfluous adjectives: those who are “clear” act necessarily “disciplined”—disciplined by the oneness of their purpose] this convention would have transacted its business within 4 days instead of 14.” It takes the Kirwan-Petriella craft-union-S.P.-ists to indulge in stale craft unionist slander of the determined band that first raised the standard of revolt against that outpost of capitalism—the craft union and its beneficiaries. It takes such a combine of reflector and reflectee to furnish the completest proof of the identity of soul that animates A.F. of L.-ism and its reflex, S.P.-ism.

Another principle upon which the sound Labor Movement stands is that he who stands on unsound ground is bound to behave improperly. Indeed, improper behavior is a “warning of Nature.” Like the rattlesnake’s rattle announces the viper, improper behavior announces impropriety of the Cause requiring such behavior. The report to *The People* brings out the damaging charge made at the convention against Mahoney that he, the Acting President of the W.F. of M., was vice-president of a wildcat mining concern AT GOLDFIELD—at Goldfield of all places, where he was praised and applauded by the capitalist and mine owners press, at the time when he went there on account of the strike! As to Kirwan and Petriella, the virtues of their behavior are of old standing. Kirwan was the worthy who acknowledged receipt of only \$8,000 from Trautmann, when he, in fact, had received \$9,000 for the Defense Fund, and who abstained from making public admission of a “mistake” which he had incurred in public, thus leaving Trautmann’s character under a cloud. As to Petriella, the record that marks his tracks as a gatherer of funds for, and

starter of wildcat S.P. papers, in his majestic march westward from the East via Toledo, Detroit, etc., has been sufficiently detailed in these columns. A crooked Cause needs crooked methods.

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