

EDITORIAL

## THE “AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST” IN DELIRIUM TREMENS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE leading article in the *American Federationist* for this month, entitled “Organized Labor and the National Civic Federation,” starts with saying that the eleventh annual meeting of the National Civic Federation, held last January, was the subject of a “concerted, theoretical, manufactured” howl on the part of the Socialists; and the article proceeds to enumerate the howls.

The first “howl” it cites is one by Max Hayes. Immediately after it has paid its respects to howler Hayes the article proceeds:

“Loeb De Leon’s comments ran thus wise:

““Yellow” labor in America enjoys an advantage not enjoyed by the “White.” What may, that advantage be? The advantage lies in the non-existence of the “Yellow” Civic Federationized American Federation of Labor officers.

“‘The cry implies that the American Federation of Labor is a labor organization—the affiliation of its leading officers in their official capacity with the Civic Federation of Capitalist magnates and more recently its admission to its national convention of clergymen as delegates of “councils of the churches of Christ” and as delegates of “federations of Catholic societies,” notably large property interests—all this demonstrates the American Federation of Labor to be an anti-labor, anti-proletarian, and pro-capitalist concern. . . .

“‘Down or up the line, the history of Tobin’s fellow American Federation of Labor officials is the history of scabbery against the working class. Such is the law of their existence. Accordingly, Farleyism is nothing peculiar to Tobin; it is the specialty of Gompers-Mitchellism; the specialty of all organization of workers that is officered by the Civic Federation. . . .

“‘Haywood next hastily sketched the evolution of an American Federation of Labor “labor leader,” from a well enough intentioned young man accepting treats at a strike conference to the stage where “to-day John draws \$6,000 yearly as chairman of the trades agreements department of the Civic Federation, and wears on his finger a diamond ring big as the

Cullinan, presented to him by the mine operators.” ’”

This presentation conveys expressly two impressions—

It intends to convey, first, the impression that the four paragraphs quoted connectedly were one article.—The impression thus intended to be conveyed is false. Each paragraph was a passage in a different article in the *Daily People*. The four paragraphs are, accordingly, garblings, worse garbled by being presented as a continuous article, whose disconnectedness would justify the conclusion that they flowed from an incoherent mind.

The presentation, secondly, intends to convey the impression that the said article of patches, consequently each of its four paragraphs, was written on the occasion of the said eleventh annual meeting of the National Civic Federation.—The impression thus meant to be conveyed is also false. Not one of the several articles in which the several paragraphs occur was written upon that theme. Each was written upon a subject that was in no way connected with the said eleventh annual meeting, and several of them before that event.

Is the double and involved falsification of the passage quoted from the *Federationist*, together with the silly imputation of an alias to the Editor of the *Daily People*, an act of deliberate swindle? We think not. It is the result of the delirium tremens that has seized the *Federationist*, and to which the paper has some time since been fleeing for solace, looking there for balm to the welts, black and blue, raised upon the anatomy of its “principles” by the cowhidings administered to them by the *Daily People*.

The *Federationist*’s fits of delirium tremens have of late been growing in violence and frequency. Small wonder that just now when its largest Union, that of the miners, wheeled in line with the sound teachings of *The People* concerning the National Civic Federation, the afore-named welts of rainbow colors should crave with added intensity for, and indulge in, larger draught of the delirium-tremens-super-inducing fluid.

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