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EDITORIAL

INDUSTRIALISM.

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WHATEVER may come from the conference, now being held in this city between the coal operators and the special scale committee of thirty-six, made up of the United Mine Workers, with Mitchell at its head, it already has served the purpose of throwing up a fact of prime interest in helping to make clear the broad and deep difference there is between Craft Unionism and Industrialism.

The conference is about coal, about mines, about the wages of coal producers. And yet, with the exception of only three of the representatives of the coal companies, these three being “independent” operators, that is, representatives of small concerns, all the other representatives are presidents of railroad companies. Nor is that all. So prominent is the railroad standing of these representatives that they are entered on the rolls of the conferees, not as coal mine barons, but with their respective titles in full of railroad kings—President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, President of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, President of the Erie Railroad Company, etc., etc. On the other hand, the so-called industrially organized Mitchell Union is represented by miners exclusively; not a railroad worker is there present through them; not remotely so. Looking a little closer the fact will be detected that most of these presidents of Railroad Companies are also prominent personages in insurance, banking and other concerns, some of them as directors, others in other leading capacities; in other words, they jointly represent capital, INDUSTRIALLY ORGANIZED. On the other side of the board sit the representatives of only one craft—the A.F. of L. coal miners—disconnected, not against their will, not by accident, but by principle, from all other crafts. When, at this coal conference, the railroad Presidents speak, it is industrially organized capital that speaks: when they act, it will be industrially organized capital that will act. When Mitchell and his other thirty-five craft unionists open their mouths it is a dislocated jaw that clatters: when they subsequently act, it will be palsied arm that will act—the dislocated jaw and palsied

arm of Labor, palsied and dislocated by Craft Unionism.

If a strike is declared, for instance, by a craft Union of printers against a printing establishment, no member of that Union will think of going to work there. The inhibition lies against every single member. The utterance of the representatives of that Union is the utterance of all the members. They speak and act as a unit. What craft Unionism establishes with regard to each separate craft, Industrial Unionism establishes for all together. The consequences of the two systems are as different as night is from day. Craft Unionism dislocates the Labor Movement into as many members as there are crafts; Industrial Unionism binds them all into ONE Union. Craft Unionism demands loyalty only from the members of that particular craft organization towards one another; Industrial Unionism demands loyalty from all the members of the I.W.W. towards one another. Craft Unionism denounces as a scab only the member of that particular craft organization that remains at work where it has declared a strike, and it allows the members of the other craft organizations in the identical shop to remain at work; Industrial Unionism, being ONE Union, brands as a scab whatever other craft organization remains at work in the establishment in which any one member, whatever his special craft, is on strike by the authority of the I.W.W. Craft Unionism deliberately keeps the majority of the Working Class disorganized, closes the shop against them, and thereby compels scabbery; Industrial Unionism opens the shop, and thereby its own doors, to all, thereby leaving no room for “involuntary scabbery” on the same principle that the Socialist Republic will leave no room for “involuntary poverty.” In short, taking the picture presented by the conference between railroad presidents, or capitalism industrially organized, on the one hand, and autonomous miners on the other—taking that picture as a horrible example to be eschewed, and as a foil on which to contrast the I.W.W., Craft Unionism is smitten with locomotor ataxia, Industrial Unionism is in virile control of the power to co-ordinate the muscles of the Labor Movement into harmonious action.

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