

EDITORIAL

BLAINE'S INTELLECTUAL SUCCESSOR.

By DANIEL DE LEON

RALPH M. EASLEY, known to fame as the kindergarten teacher of the Editors of the A.F. of L. craft journals, incidentally Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Civic Federation, has just returned from his trip to Europe, where he acted as understrapper for Gompers, in the latter's mission to Civic Federationize the European Labor Movement.

Promptly upon his arrival Mr. Easley allowed himself to be interviewed.

From the interview the public learns that Mr. Easley's mission met "with wonderful success." Cabinet President Briand was so charmed with Easley-Gompersism that "the French Minister of Labor incorporated much of the Gompers principles in his address to the Unions"; Cabinet Minister John Burns "listened enthusiastically," and made some very apt suggestions. Nor was Gompersico-Easleyianism found to be less popular in humbler quarters. Mr. Easley does not say so exactly, yet from his perfervid strophes the inference is that everywhere the masses of Labor trooped out of city gates to receive the Gompers-Easley message like a Messianic revelation.

That "Government officials" opened wide their arms to welcome the American duo and its duet there can be no doubt. Seeing there are "Yellow Unions" in France; "Christian Unions" in Germany; "Gapon Unions" in Russia; etc., neither can there be any doubt concerning the cordiality of the reception,—which, the proper wires being pulled,—was accorded to both duet and duo by the latter element. Nevertheless, to judge from the whines—several of which were reproduced in these columns—of the press that voices in America the unappreciated benevolence of the Civic Federation, the "message of friendship" that Gompers and Easley took to Europe met very generally with a reception that contrasts rather markedly with that now reported by Mr. Easley.

How is the discrepancy to be reconciled? Quite easily.

Mr. Easley is the intellectual successor of the noted, if not notorious, James G. Blaine. The closing scene of the Republican presidential campaign of 1884 was the defeated Blaine's telegraphic message to his agents all over the country: "Claim everything!" Exactly so does the discomfited Easley after his late European campaign.

Poor Blaine "claimed"—and got no further. Neither will Easley.

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

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