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EDITORIAL

BOUNCE MCMACKIN!

By DANIEL DE LEON

LAST week's article entitled "Talk and Facts"¹ should be ample ground for the Republican administration at Albany to bounce John McMackin from his job as Commissioner of Labor with short shrift.

The article brought out that a computation of the statistical figures, published by the Bureau of Labor on wages, shows that wages are petering down. The same bureau published figures to show that the pure and simple Unions are gaining greatly in numbers. A synthesis of these two sets of figures points out the conclusion that wages go down to the tune of the increase in the pure and simple pet organizations of the capitalist class. This is about as strong an argument against the Lieutenants of Labor as one can want, and it is a demolition of the theories of pure and simpledom. Now, then, it is not for any such purpose that Mr. John McMackin is paid a salary.

The Bureaus of Labor, originally conceived for the purpose of furnishing the working class official information on the downward slope that capitalism leads them, soon degenerated into what everything, intended for the benefit of the working class, must degenerate into under capitalist administration. Accordingly, the office was speedily turned into a "pap" with which to keep some malodorous Labor Lieutenant of Capitalism in bread and butter, and, as an inevitable result thereof, the "information" retailed from such offices was doctored in such way as to deceive the rank and file of the workers. This explains a McMackin as "Commissioner of Labor" in Albany. This also explains his booming, in his "reports," the pure and simple Unions, and boasting of their increase. In a measure, this also explains the slip of allowing the figures to appear that demonstrate the futility of pure and simpledom, and for this reason:

It goes without saying that the tribe of the McMackins is essentially an

¹ [Hugo Vogt, "Talk and Facts," *Sozialistische Arbeiter Zeitung* [n.d.], reprinted *Daily People*, June 23, 1901 and *Weekly People*, Aug. 3, 1901.]

ignorant tribe. To mention any of that gentry in the same breath with statistics is enough to draw laughter from mourners. Hence it comes that the public is regaled with the sight of the capitalist concerns, who placed McMackin there to boom pure and simple, hoisted with their own petard. Their ignorant lackey, this old-time Labor Lieutenant of Capitalism, John McMackin, does not know enough to lie consistently. While he does all he can to give figures as large as possible on the numerical strength of the pure and simple Unions, and thus seeks to insinuate a false idea suitable to the interests of his paymasters, he hasn't gumption enough to know that all such increase in the membership of the fakir-led Unions means nothing unless he can at least show that such increase keeps up wages. He knows nothing of that. He did not digest his orders. He has not sense enough to digest them. As a result the document he publishes turns out to be an argument against pure and simple Unionism, in that it betrays the fact that despite increasing numbers in membership, the Union's wages are going down, down.

Of course it takes an extraordinarily powerful mind to lie consistently; and of course the Organized Scabbery's forte does not lie in powerfulness of mind. Nevertheless, it must be admitted that McMackin has proved himself exceptionally stupid.

Bounce him!

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

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