

EDITORIAL

PENSIONS FOR LABOR-LIEUTENANTS OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

UNDER a four-decker of deliriously flaming double-column headlines the East Liverpool, O., *Morning Tribune* announces Governor Harmon's appointment of Thomas J. Duffy, president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, a member of the newly created Employers' Liability Commission.

The reading matter heralded by the delirious headlines is in keeping with the introduction—delirium-tremensly contradictory.

The announcement opens with this sentence:

“Once in so many years, but not at frequent interims, however, there arises in the midst of the masses and from out of its own numbers, a labor leader; one whose heart and soul is in the movement for the betterment and advancement of his people and who never falters in his steadfast determination to achieve, as best he may, this accomplishment and consummation without fear, without corruption.”—The never-faltering and steadfast-achieving labor leader being the Thomas J. Duffy aforementioned, president of the Operative Potters, and, of course, a member of the Militia of Christ.

Before the article closes the startled eye comes across this bit of biography:

Thomas J. Duffy, on being recently re-elected president of the Operative Potters, “declared that the duties of the office and the conferences had become so exacting on his time and strength that, in the interest of his health and family, he found it compulsory to step aside.”

Puzzled by the sight of a “young leader,” one who “never falters” and “steadfastly pursues,” throwing up his office because of its exacting demands on his time and strength, and immediately thereupon accepting another office, one supposedly so exacting as that of member of an Employers' Liability Commission, one re-reads

the article, whereupon details, that at first escaped the eye, are taken notice of. The details are that the salary of the president of the Operative Potters is only \$1,800, and the salary of a member of the Commission is \$5,000.

It has often been complained that in this country there is no provision for pensioning workers. The complaint is not quite justified. There is a method for pensioning trusty workers in the vineyard of the capitalist class. The method consists in promoting them from lean jobs, to fat ones.

And now the delirious joy of the East Liverpool *Morning Tribune* is, explained—a joy so delirious that it lets the cat out of the bag.

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