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EDITORIAL

SHORT MITCHELL, AND MITCHELL SHORT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WICKED London, Canada, *Free Press!*

The report of the speeches made in London by Prof. Adam Shortt, of the Civil Service Commission of Ottawa, and by our own John Mitchell, of Mark Hanna lieutenantship in the United Mine Workers of America, in behalf of establishing a Civic Federation in that city, is headed by the London *Free Press* of the 15th of the current month with these two quotations from the two speeches:

“The next step is to get the parties together face to face.”—Prof. Adam Shortt.

“I don’t believe that men who put their feet under a table and discuss things together will go away without a settlement.”—John Mitchell.

Unquestionably the two passages are typical, respectively, of the two speeches they are taken from. What is more, the two dovetail so neatly that, while each shows where the other fell short, they fit so well together that, jointly, they illuminate both premises and goal—the premises, that the capitalist Generals and their Labor-Lieutenants are having an increasingly hard time with their men; the goal, that Lieutenants and Generals have no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry, for that shall abide with them of their labor to keep the blinkers on their men.

As an American Civic Federationist, Lieutenant Mitchell periodically puts his “feet under a table,” together with his capitalist Generals, at the periodical banquets of the Civic Federation where Lieutenants and Generals agree that their interests are mutual, mutual also their love and affection; and prove it by jointly feasting on the wine and meat (blood and flesh) distilled from the veins and carved out of the second-joints of the toiling men, women and children. When, therefore,

Shortt states that “the parties must get together face to face,” but omits the feet-under-the-table performance, he falls decidedly short of Mitchell. In his London speech, Shortt was a short Mitchell.

As a Canadian aspirer after the beatitude promised to the peace-maker, Shortt is an expert slinger of taffy to Labor, pronounces Labor “reasonable,” and, therefore, expects Labor to prove itself still more reasonable. When, therefore, Mitchell mentions the feet-under-the-table performance, but omits the face-to-face (mutual winkery) between the two parties, he in turn falls decidedly short of Shortt. In his London speech Mitchell was a Mitchell short.

In the meantime, while the short Mitchells and Mitchells short are at their incantations, fitly assisted, as happened in London, by clergymen of various denominations, the mills of Social Evolution, slowly grinding, are irresistibly grinding out the fine meal of the Social Revolution.

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