

EDITORIAL

## A SUGGESTION TO MR. EASLEY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**N his defense of the National Civic Federation as a friend of Unionism, already commented on in these columns,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Ralph M. Easley quotes an employer who, having been invited into membership in the said body, angrily declined, saying, among other things, “the very letter you sent me has on it the union label, the badge of slavery.”

The article entitled “The Wahneta,” printed elsewhere in this issue, in which members of the International Typographical Union disclose the existence within their organization of a secret, oath-bound body the members of which, in league with the employer, secure for themselves and pets the best jobs to be had, terrorize “kickers,” and serve as a lever with the aid of which the employers keep the membership in subjection and economic ignorance, recalls the above quoted passage.

The two things combined—“The Wahneta” circular and the passage from Mr. Easley’s defense of the Civic Federation—throw three things into relief:

- 1.—The mental backwardness of the anti-Civic Federation capitalist;
- 2.—The mental matureness of the pro Civic Federation capitalist;
- 3.—The Gompers “Label.”

The anti-Civic Federation capitalist, whom Mr. Easley quotes, looks upon the Gompers Label as a badge of slavery to the employer. The gentleman certainly is in dreadful earnest. The degree of the dreadfulness of his earnest is the measure of his backwardness. The “Wahneta” circular proves the fact.

So far from the Gompers Label being a badge of slavery, it is a badge of freedom for the capitalist—freedom from trouble with the body of the working class. No doubt the employer would prefer no Label at all, and, unquestionably, the labor-loving bourgeois who constitute the Civic Federation would themselves be glad to be

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<sup>1</sup> [See “Easley Muffed Hillquit,” Nov. 20, 1911—*Editor*.]

rid of it. Nevertheless, in their acceptance of the Label, as they do, they prove their mental maturity.

It is not a sign of mental adulthood on the part of a cat to wish to eat fish yet refuse to wet her feet. As with the adult four-footed cat, so with the adult two-footed bourgeois feline, or pro-Civic Federationist. In order to eat the fish of thoroughly dominating the body of the working class, the employer must create “Wahneta” memberships,—who can tell how many “Wahnetas” there are not in other Unions! The Label is one of the seals on the contract between Capitalist and “Wahneta.”

We suggest to Mr. Ralph M. Easley that he invest in a goodly number of “The Wahneta” circulars, and also in an equally goodly number of the “Exposé of the Secret Organization Within the I.T.U. Known as the ‘Wahneta,’” being simultaneously an exposé, printed by order of Denver Typographical Union No. 49, of Mr. James M. Lynch, president of the International Typographical Union, and present member of the Executive Committee of the National Civic Federation, incidentally also an esteemed member of the Militia of Christ.

We suggest to Mr. Easley that he invest extensively in these documents; that he send a set to, and thereby shame the angry employer whom he quoted and who refused to join the Civic Federation on account of the letter of invitation having the union Label; and that he never request any employer to join his labor-loving body without accompanying the same with a set of the aforementioned documents. Declinations will then be few, if any, and then surely not on the score of the Label.

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